

## Attitudes of the Diyala Government audience towards the misleading news of the formation of the Iraqi government for 2022

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### *Abstract*

*This study aims to find out “the attitudes of the Diyala government towards the misleading media of the formation the Iraqi government”. Also, disinformation in the midst of the growing contemporary political bets is one of the contemporary media practices, based on lying, misinformation, deception and manipulation of facts. Through these bases, these facts are fabricated and alternative facts are presented to the existing reality and published in systematic forms in the public domain until they turn over time into a real tangible reality.*

*The researcher expanded, by drawing a sample using a sample, the snowball, which is one of the 400 non-probable samples to identify the attitudes of the Diyala governorate public towards the misleading media to form the Iraqi government. The study questionnaire was prepared from theoretical literature and previous studies, and the validity of the questionnaire was confirmed by apparent honesty. Also, the stability of the scale was confirmed by the Cronbach's alpha equation. The study found that the reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government are the lack of public confidence in the government, due to the poor conditions within society, and the wrong understanding of information and lack of knowledge of it.*

*Keywords: trends, fake news, Iraqi government.*

### **Introduction**

The crisis of forming the Iraqi government for the year 2022 is one of the most complex political crises that Iraq has witnessed since 2003, due to the large number of leaks and fiery statements to the media. It increases the state of conflict between political forces and reflects negatively on the settlement of the crisis of government formation. This is especially after eight months since the elections and the continued state of political impasse by exceeding the constitutional periods for forming the government after the announcement of the final election results for voting officially November 30, 2023 in which

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the MP seats of the traditional political parties decreased (Sunni and Shiite) and on the other hand the rise of new political groups represented by independents and October.

This confusing reality was a disappointment for the Iraqi citizen after building the hope of reforming the political system through these early elections, the October 2019 protests. Also, the change of the Election Law No. (9) of 2020 adopted the multi-district system.

The media in its coverage of some issues, including the formation of the government, are biased means in favor of the interests and policies of the owner of the media institution, and this is confirmed by studies. So disinformation is a feature of the media as it has become a reality in media institutions by presenting some facts that are not true, and because of its clear impact in distorting information and thus changing the ideas of public opinion in a slope or less humane.

Therefore, our study aims to identify the main features of disinformation and the reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the Iraqi government by answering the questions raised by the researcher in the research problem, to come up with a set of important conclusions in this aspect. The researcher used the descriptive approach to reach the results aimed at the research. The research was divided into three topics as follows:

The first section dealt with the methodological framework, including: the research problem and questions, the importance of research, the objectives of the research, the research methodology and its sample, the research community and its fields, the research tool, honesty and stability. However, the second topic the theoretical framework included: the concept of misleading media, the impact of misleading media on the public, methods of disinformation. The third section dealt with the practical framework: the results of the field study to survey the population of Diyala Governorate and the results of the research.

### **The first topic: the methodological framework:**

First: Research Problem:

The research problem becomes clear in the following main question: What are the attitudes of the Diyala governorate public towards the misleading media to form the Iraqi government? The main question of the research is the following sub-questions:

1. To what extent are respondents following the news of the formation of the government?

2. What are the means adopted by the respondents to follow up on the news of the formation of the government?
3. What are the reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government?
4. What effect does fake news have on the public's psyche?

Second: The importance of research:

The importance of the research lies in the following points:

1. Defining the concept of shady news and its objectives.
2. Identifying the extent to which the audience interacts with the shady news.
3. Showing how fake news affects the audience.

Third: Research Objectives:

The research seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Identifying the extent to which respondents follow the news of government formation.
2. Disclosing of the means adopted by the respondents to follow up the news of the formation of the government.
3. Identifying the reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government.
4. Revealing the impact of fake news on the psyche of the public.

Fourth: Research Hypotheses:

Hypothesis I: There are statistically significant differences in the reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government according to gender.

Hypothesis II: There is a correlation between the impact of misleading news on the public's psyche and the public's follow-up of this news.

Fifth: Research Areas and Limits:

Identifying areas of research is one of the methodological steps of any research or study, which involves three areas:

1. Spatial area: Diyala Governorate
2. Human field: a sample of the audience of Diyala Governorate.
3. Time range: Determined from 1/5/2022 to 24/5/2022.

Sixth: Research Methodology and Tool:

This research is one of the descriptive researches that the researcher adopted. It used the survey method and a questionnaire form to collect data and information from the respondents. To find the facts that the research aims to reveal, a questionnaire was designed that includes several axes and the questionnaire tool was employed to collect data and information on the subject of the research.

#### Seventh: Research Community and Sample:

The research community is the audience of Diyala Governorate, and since it is difficult to apply this study to all the audience of the portfolio. A sample of them was selected, in a snowball manner due to the difficulty of reaching the audience of Diyala Governorate, and a relatively small initial sample is being selected. Then, the researcher began through close people who meet the specifications and conditions of the research community. Also, the electronic questionnaire form was sent to friends on social networking sites, and close people through groups in communication programs (WhatsApp, Viber, Messenger, groups in Facebook, Instagram), on 1/5/2022, at half past two in the morning, until 24/5/2022 at eleven in the morning. The respondents known by the researcher were asked to send it to their friends and acquaintances, which is a direct application of the snowball sample in which participants are selected by nominations or referrals.

**Table (1) Study Sample**

No.	genre	Iteration	Percentage
1	males	236	59%
2	Females	164	41%
Total		400	100%

#### Eighth: Honesty and Consistency:

The researcher made sure of the apparent truthfulness of the questionnaire when its items were submitted to (5) arbitrators (Prof. Shokria Kokz Al-Saraj, Assoc. Prof. Mohamed Ismail Hassan, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haytham Akab Gift, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sabah Anwar AlSalihi and Dr. Sabah Awad Muhammad). In the light of their opinions, some questions were modified and no question was excluded because they received their approval by (80%) or more, so this percentage was adopted as a criterion for its validity.

To find the stability of the scale, the method of analysis of variance was adopted according to the Alpha-Crew NPA equation, whose value was (0.894), which is the coefficient of consistency of the questions that can be adopted

## **The second topic / theoretical framework**

First: The concept of misleading media:

The media at the present time has been classified into two parts. The first section is traditional media, including the press, radio and television, and the second section is social networking sites: "It is a term given to a group of sites on the Internet that appeared with the second generation of the Web, or what is known as Web 2.5, that allows communication between individuals and in a virtual community environment that brings them together according to interest groups or networks of affiliation (country, University, School, Company. etc)". All this is done through direct communication services such as sending a message, viewing the personal files of others, and knowing their news and information that they exchange, and its means are (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Estekram)(Kafi, 2015).

Therefore, the task of the honest media is to convey the facts and reality as they are, while what we see and follow is just a distortion and falsification of those facts and facts(Fahmy, 1436 AH). What is done from shading the media is "distorting the facts or not mentioning the full facts or hiding the necessary information for the consumer about the advertised good or service". If the media provides the public with an accurate or honest perception of reality, there will be no problem(Al-Barghouti, 2000). Unfortunately, the media moves from motives related to those who finance it and not those who watch it, so it provides the viewer with a distorted picture of reality, and the distortion is represented in two main directions, the first is simplifying or amplifying reality according to the end and the second presenting a fictional reality that is completely far from the truth(Fahmy, 1436 AH).

Disinformation is a feature of the media and not an accusation, but something that has its scientific justifications. The word media or advertisement imposes in its first definitions news, analysis and transfer of reality according to the requirements of the media, what is right for them, wrong for opponent because more media material carries ideology or intellectual premises if we want to simplify(Mahmoud, 2010).

It is not true what some say that neutrality is the basis of the work of the media, but that absolute neutrality is something that cannot exist in life. Every media in this world is necessarily a media belonging to either a culture or a homeland or a commercial interest or personal prestige or a combination of affiliations, and here of course it is controlled and directed and like the non-affiliated media such as the newspaper seller who distributes content that he does not understand its meaning(Al-Shamimri, 2010).

A large proportion of media research indicates that each media outlet has a more or less persuasive ability than other media. In addition, the relative capabilities of different media outlets differ clearly from one persuasive task to another according to the audience to which it is addressed (Al-Zubaidi, 2013).

Among the reasons for believing misleading media are (Fahmy, 1436 AH):

1. Lack of ability to criticize

The financial deficit of some people corresponds to self-inflation, making them unwilling to admit their inability to distinguish between the different. So we find them believing something, just because they are unable to prove the contrary and because they do not want to admit their ignorance. If one of the broadcasters told them, for example, that the politician is nothing but a spy, they will accept the charge, because they are unable to deny it and because the hesitation to prove it reveals their monetary weakness.

2. Laziness about proof

Many people do not have time to verify the validity of every information they receive, so the media relies a lot on the inability of the recipient to install. They spread false and misleading information every day, and even if some of them discover a lie here or there, it will not affect much and the convoy will pass, and it is okay to apologize sometimes.

3. Frames of reference

The acceptance of a lot of information is related to the frames of reference that each person uses in classifying or evaluating information, whether it is directly consistent with this framework, the chances of believing it have increased. On the other hand, the media practices the release of disinformation in a formulation that is compatible with the frames of reference for the target audience groups, it falls within the theories of behavioral change that depend on the media, i.e. the release of information that corresponds to what the public knows and with its tendencies and trends.

4. Mixed lying

It is difficult to get to the full facts in every field, no matter how high the level of follow-up. This is a fact, what we often get to is a part of the truth that is often mixed with some lies. The opposite also happens in order for misinformation to achieve greater success, mixed with truthful information. So it gains credibility, especially when the information to be passed is of the type that is difficult to prove a lie,

whether it is related to an event that has ended or its parties are absent.

Therefore, the political authority relies on the means of communication to direct local public opinion and influence it and determine its positions in support of government policies and support its political, economic and social programs. The scientific research has confirmed that the images and impressions broadcast by the media to public opinion through its communication activity represented in the dissemination of information, news, images, analyzes and explanations, have effects on the opinions of community members, their behaviors and attitudes(Al-Saud, 2010).

Second: The impact of misleading media on the public:

The media has become one of the most important tools for shaping awareness of the issues and problems of society. Also, this role is more prominent within the framework of developing societies, as the citizen draws a lot of his information and knowledge through the media, especially the visual media, in light of the high illiteracy rate. The process of forming awareness through the media is not innocent at all. It is always controlled by the interests of the forces controlling the means, whether political or economic, as directing them either to form a real and objective awareness of the issues and problems of society. By portraying reality as it is in all its dimensions without marginalization, displacement and fragmentation, this rarely happens in our contemporary world unless the interests of the controlling forces keep it, and these processes move us directly from the formation of awareness of the issues and problems of society to falsify awareness of them(Ahmed, 2015).

The media works as a variable within a set of many changes spread in the complex and that its impact depends on many factors related to all corners of the communication process, all of them, starting with the sender, the message, the channel and the receiver, as well as other social processes such as the prevailing upbringing and other processes (Al-Bakri, 2005). These processes make up the social construction, and Zaki Hussein Al-Wardi mentions that the public is all members of society in all walks of life. When they leave their job and professional obligations to face the requirements of life, the information invested and benefited by the general public includes three types(Muhammad, 2014):

1. Social information: It is the information that the individual needs to face the challenges of life and adapt to the prevailing conditions in society, such as the advancement of household burdens and the implementation of social obligations.

2. Entertainment information: It is information necessary to meet the individual's need for entertainment and spending leisure time.

3. Educational Information: Information necessary to meet the educational requirements of a particular stage of an individual's academic life, as well as information necessary for continuing education and professional development.

As the impact of media and communication on individuals and society has increased significantly, especially after it became possible to communicate with all parts of the world, and after the occurrence of events took only a few seconds to know. This made societies and cultures communicate with each other directly and quickly, which happens to individuals extensive experiences and great information that invites us to pay attention to studying their various effects (Al-Bakri, 2005).

Professors of political communication divide the types of influence of the media in the political process into three types (Al-Bishr, 1418):

- Cognitive influence: It means knowing the relationship between exposure to the media and increasing cognitive and cultural awareness of the political environment.
- Emotional influence: It means the extent to which the media influences in determining attitudes and shaping the attitudes adopted by young people towards issues related to the political environment.
- Behavioral influence: It is intended to know the relationship between exposure to the media and real participation in the activities of the political environment.

Third: Methods of Disinformation:

There are many methods used in disinformation using publicly available and secret media and means of communication to influence the recipient, the most important of which are (Al-Atwani, 2018):

1. Intimidation: Its purpose is to manipulate the feelings of the masses by waving force around something to spread terror, fear and hatred and thus choose social overtones that elicit the desired response.
2. Simplicity: Disinformation may be characterized by the simplest simplicity in the formulation of the communication message, and in the desired goal because the complexity in the formulation of the message breeds boredom and even leads to negative excitement.
3. Repetition: One of the media constants is that repeating a phrase enough will make the public accept it over time, and examples abound, especially using the repetition of political slogans.

4. Flooding the media with the most accurate news so that it loses any meaning when used, as the viewer or reader gets lost in a lot of signals, signs and indicators that cancel each other, due to excessive broadcasting of information and news and due to the chaos of information and news.

### The third topic: the practical framework:

The results of the field study of the population of Diyala Governorate

First: Personal Data:

1- Gender:

**Table (2) The distribution of respondents by gender shows:**

No.	genre	Iteration	Percentage
1	males	236	59%
2	Females	164	41%
Total		400	100%

The figures in Table (2) show the distribution of respondents by gender, and it is clear that the male category is more than the female category, as the male category obtained a percentage of (59%), with a repetition of (236), out of a total of (400) repetitions. The female category obtained a percentage (41%) and a repetition of (164) out of a total of (400) repetitions.

2- Age:

**Table (3) the distribution of respondents by age groups.**

Age Group	Iteration	Percentage %	Rank
29 38 years	130	32.5%	The first
18 28 years	112	28%	Second
39 48 years	88	22%	Third
49 58 years	42	10.5%	Fourth
From 59 years and older	28	7%	Fifth
Total	400	100%	-

The results of the previous table showed that the age groups of the respondents from the research sample were distributed on age ranks representing the audience of Diyala Governorate, as the age group of (29-38 years) came in first place and got (130) repetitions with a percentage of (32.5%), followed by the age group of (18-28 years) in

second place and got (112) repetitions with a percentage of (28%). Yet, the age group came from (39-48 years old) ranked third and got (88) repetitions with a percentage of (22%), followed by the age group of (49-58 years) in fourth place and got (42) repetitions with a percentage of (10.5%), and finally the age group of (59 years and over) came in last place and got (28) repetitions with a percentage of (7%).

### 3- Educational Level:

**Table (4) The distribute the respondents according to the educational level**

No.	Education Level	Iteration	Percentage	Rank
1	Bachelor	140	35%	First
2	Diploma	88	22%	Second
3	secondary	68	17%	Third
4	Higher Degrees	52	13%	Fourth
5	Read and write	32	8%	Fifth
6	Primary	20	5%	Sixth
Total		400	100%	-

The results of the previous table for the distribution of respondents showed a sense of academic achievement that the (Bachelor's) certificate came in first place and obtained (140) repetitions with a percentage of (35%), followed by the (Diploma) certificate in second place and obtained (88) repetitions with a percentage of (22%), then the (Diploma) certificate Secondary ranked third and got (68) repetitions with a percentage of (17%). It is followed by the Higher Certificate ranked fourth and got (52) repetitions and a percentage of (13%), while the category (reads and writes) came in fifth place and got (32) repetitions with a percentage of (8 %). Finally, the (primary) category came in last place and got (20) repetitions and a percentage of (5%).

### 4- Marital Status:

**Table (5) The distribution of respondents according to the marital status.**

No.	Marital status	Iteration	Percentage	Rank
1	married	212	53%	The first
2	Single	170	42.5%	Second
3	Absolute	12	3%	Third
4	Widower	6	1.5%	Fourth
Total		400	100%	-

The results of the fifth table for the distribution of respondents with a sense of social status showed that the category (married) came in first

place and got (212) repetitions with a percentage of (53%). Then, the category (single) is in second place and got (170) repetitions with a percentage of (42.5%). Then the category (divorced) ranked third and got (12) repetitions with a percentage of (3%), and finally the category (widower) came in last place and got (6) repetitions and a percentage of (1.5%).

5- Profession:

**Table (6) The distribution of the respondents by profession**

No.	Profession	Iteration	Percentage	Rank
1	Obliged	153	38.25%	The first
2	student	102	25.5%	Second
3	Kasb	82	20.5%	Second
4	Convinced	36	9%	Third
5	homemaker	20	5%	Fourth
6	I don't do	7	1.75%	Fifth
Total		400	100%	-

The previous table for the distribution of respondents showed a sense of profession that the profession (employee) came in first place and got (153) repetitions with a percentage (38.25%), followed by the profession (student) in second place and got (102) repetitions with a percentage (102) repetitions and a percentage of (25.5%). The profession of earner ranked third and got (12) repetitions and a percentage of (20.5%), while the profession of (retired) came in fourth place and got (36) repetitions and a percentage of (9%), followed by the profession (housewife) in fifth place and got (20) repetitions and a percentage of (5%), and finally came the profession (I don't work) ranked last and got (7) repetitions and a percentage of (1.75%).

Second: Exposure:

1-How closely are you following the news of the formation of the Iraqi government?

**Table (7) The extent of the respondents' awareness of the news of the formation of the Iraqi government**

No.	Response	Iteration	Percentage	Rank
1	All the time	190	47.5%	The first
2	Sometimes	175	43.75%	Second
3	Rarely	35	8.75%	Third
Total		400	100%	-

The analysis of Table (7) showed that the response (always) came at the forefront of the respondents' follow-up to the news of the formation of the government, with a percentage of (47. 5%). Second is the response (sometimes) in second place with a percentage of (43. 75%), while the response (rarely) came last with a percentage of (8. 75%). This result reflects that the majority of respondents follow the news of the formation of the Iraqi government.

2- What means to follow up on the news of the formation of the government?

**Table (8) The means adopted by the respondents to follow up the news of the formation of the government**

No.	Means		Iteration	Percentage	Rank
1	Traditional media	Newspapers	12	3%	Seventh
2		Radio	28	6.7%	Sixth
3		Tv	88	22%	Second
4	Social Media	Facebook	128	32%	First
5		Twitter	46	11.5%	Fourth
6		Youtube	58	14.5%	Third
7		Instagram	40	10%	Fifth
Total			400	100%	-

The results of Table (8) showed that Facebook was the first means adopted by the respondents to follow up the news of the formation of the government, and got (128) repetitions and a percentage of (32%), followed by (TV) in second place and got (88) repetitions and a percentage of (22%). Then the site (YouTube) in third place and got (58) repetitions and a percentage of (14.5%), while the site (Twitter) came in fourth place and got (41) repetitions and a percentage of (10.52%), in Instagram was fifth place and got (40) repetitions with a percentage of (10%), followed by (Radio) in sixth place and got (28) repetitions with a percentage of (6.7%). Finally, newspapers were last with (12) repetitions with a percentage of (3%). This result reflects the leadership of social networking sites on traditional media in following the sample of respondents to the news of the formation of the government because of the multimedia possessed by these media, the speed of communication with the outside world and a rich source of knowledge.

3. Have you followed the news of a media outlet and found that it is misleading news?

**Table (9) The respondents followed the news of a media outlet and found that it is misleading news**

No.	Phrase	Iteration	Percentage	Rank
1	To some extent	192	48%	The first
2	Yes	160	40%	Second
3	No	48	12%	Third
Total		400	100%	-

The analysis of Table (9) indicates that the response (to some extent) was first in the respondents' follow-up to the news of a media outlet and found that it was misleading news, with a percentage of (48%). The response (yes) was second with a percentage of (40%), while the response came (No) ranked last with a percentage of (12%). This result reflects that the majority of respondents follow the news of the formation of the Iraqi government.

4-Do you check the news before trading it?

**Table (10) The extent to which respondents are sure of news before circulating it**

No.	Phrase	L.T.Karrar	Percentage
1	Yes	218	54.5%
2	No	182	45.5%
Total		400	100%

The figures in Table (10) is the distribution of respondents according to their confirmation of the news before its circulation. So, it is clear that the category of those who verify the news before trading it obtained (218) repetitions and a percentage of (54.5%), while the category of those who do not verify the news before circulating it got (182) repetitions and a percentage of (45.5%), out of a total of (400) repetitions. This result reflects to us that a large percentage of respondents check the news before circulating it to know the validity of this news so as not to fall into the trap of media disinformation.

5-Which sites do you adopt to verify the authenticity of the news?

**Table (11) The sites respondents adopt to verify the validity of the news**

No.	Phrase	Iteration	Percentage	Rank
1	The TV sites	106	26.5%	The first
2	Cabinet Website	96	24%	Second

3	Websites on news agencies	72	18%	Third
4	I don't want the ministries to fall	64	16%	Fourth
5	Newspaper Websites	34	8.5%	Fifth
6	Radio Sites	28	7%	Sixth
Total		400	100%	-

Table (11) showed that TV was first to verify the validity of the news, and got (106) repetitions and a percentage of (26.5%), followed by the category (Cabinet website) in second place and got (96) repetitions and a percentage of (24). Yet, the category of (Mawaqon News Agencies) was third with (72) repetitions with a percentage of (18%), followed by the category (Al-Wazarat) in fourth place and got (64) repetitions with a percentage of (16%). Then, newspaper websites ranked fifth and got (34) repetitions with a percentage of (8.5%), and finally radio sites was last and got (28) repetitions with a percentage of (7%). We conclude from the results of the previous table that the category (television sites) topped the rest of the other categories in the adoption of respondents to ensure the validity of the news. This indicates to us that television sites get large views and follow-up by the sample of respondents for their high confidence in the news they publish.

Third: Scale

1 Reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government.

**Table (12) The reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government. n=400**

No.	Phrase	Agree	neutral	Disagree	Weighted mean	Percentile weight	Direction	Rank
1	Public Lack of Trust in Government	as	286	96	2.67	89	Agree	The first
		%	17.5	24				
2	Poor conditions within society	as	282	56	2.55	85	Agree	Second
		%	70.5	14				
3	Misunderstanding and not recognizing information	as	234	124	2.48	82.7	Agree	Third
		%	58.5	31				
4	Ambiguity of the news source	as	170	148	2.22	74	Agree	Fourth
		%	42.5	37				
5		as	168	148	2.21	73.7	Agree	Fifth

	The scoop at the expense of accuracy and credibility	%	42	37	21				
6	Tendency to cover negative news	as	154	118	128	2.065	68.3	Agree	Sixth
		%	38.5	29.5	32				
Total						2.365	78.8	Agree	-

The table above shows that:

The reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government, as determined by the respondents, were as follows:

In first place (public distrust of the government) came in with a weighted mean (2.67), with a percentage weight of (89%). The second was poor conditions within society with a weighted mean (2.55) at (85%). Then the third place is (misunderstanding of information and lack of recognition) with a weighted medium (2.48), and a percentage weight of (82.7%). It ranked fourth (ambiguity of the source of the news) with a mean (2.22) and a percentage weight (74), to come in fifth place (scoop at the expense of accuracy and credibility) with an arithmetic average (2.21) and a percentage weight (73.7). Finally, the sixth is the tendency to cover negative news with an arithmetic average (2.065) and a percentage weight of (68.3%).

Looking at the table, we find that its results indicate that the general average degree of reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government. It determined by the respondents reached (2.365), and a percentage of (78.8%) which is with an OK trend.

The reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government are the lack of public confidence in the government, due to the poor conditions within society, and the wrong understanding of information and lack of knowledge of it.

## 2\_ The impact of misleading news on the psyche of the public

**Table (13) The impact of fake news on the psyche of the public. n=400**

No.	Phrase	Agree	neutral	Disagree	Weighted mean	Percentile weight	Direction	Rank
<b>1</b>	<b>Insecurity</b>	<b>as</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>2.475</b>	<b>82.5</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>The first</b>
		<b>%</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>28.5</b>				
<b>2</b>	<b>Feeling constantly troubled and anxious</b>	<b>as</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>2.405</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Second</b>
		<b>%</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>29.5</b>				
<b>3</b>		<b>as</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>78.7</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Third</b>

	Creating a gap between the citizen and the government	%	53	30	17				
4	Find other sources of entertainment	as	210	116	74	2.34	78	Agree	Fourth
		%	52.5	29	18.5				
5	Indifference at all	as	162	154	84	2.195	73.2	Agree	Fifth
		%	40.5	38.5	21				
6	Developing responsibility by educating others	as	174	113	113	2.152	71.7	Agree	Sixth
		%	43.5	28.25	28.25				
Total						2.321	77.4	Agree	-

The table above shows that:

The impact of misleading news on the psychology of the public as determined by the respondents, represented in the following:

The first is the lack of a sense of security with a weighted mean (2.475), and a percentage (82.5%). The second is feeling of constant turmoil and anxiety with a weighted mean (2.405), and a percentage (80.2%). Then, the third is creating a gap between the citizen and the government with a weighted mean (2.36), and a percentage weight of (78.7%). To rank fourth (searching for other sources of entertainment) with a mean (2.34) and a percentage (78), to come (indifference at all) in fifth place with a weighted mean (2,195) and a percentage weight of (73.2). Finally, the sixth is developing responsibility by educating others with an arithmetic mean (2.152) and a percentage (71.7%).

Looking at the table, we find that its results indicate that the general average degree of impact of misleading news on the psychology of the public as determined by the respondents reached (2.321), with a percentage (77.4%), which is with an agreeing trend.

The previous table reveals that the impact of fake news on the psyche of the public is the lack of a sense of security. This leads to a feeling of constant turmoil and anxiety and creates a gap between the citizen and the government.

## 3- How to influence the audience.

**Table (14) The audience is influenced. n=400**

No	Phrase	Agree		neutral	Disagree	Weighted mean	Percentile weight	Direction	Rank
1	Questioning the patriotism of election winners	as	218	104	78	2.35	78.3	Agree	The first
		%	54.5	26	19.5				
2	Highlighting certain issues at the expense of others that are more important	as	195	105	100	2.237	74.6	Agree	Second
		%	48.75	26.25	25				
3	Adopting the ideas and facts contained therein	as	178	138	84	2.235	74.5	Agree	Third
		%	44.5	34.5	21				
4	Posting fabricated videos and news	as	181	114	105	2.19	73	Agree	Fourth
		%	45.25	28.5	26.25				
5	Brainwashing	as	174	114	112	2.155	71.8	Agree	Fifth
		%	43.5	28.5	28				
6	News trading and interaction	as	166	114	120	2.115	70.5	Agree	Sixth
		%	41.5	28.5	30				
Total						2.213	73.8	Agree	-

The results of the previous table showed how to influence the audience as determined by the respondents, and they were as follows:

the first was questioning the patriotism of the election winners with a weighted mean (2.35), and a percentage weight of (78.3%), to obtain the second place in the category (highlighting certain issues at the expense of others more important) with a mean (2.237), and a percentage (74.6%). The third is adopting the ideas and facts contained therein with a mean (2.235), and with a percentage (74.5%). Then, publishing fabricated videos and news is in fourth place with a mean (2.19) and a percentage (73). The fifth place is brainwashing with a mean (2.155) and a percentage (71.5), and finally the sixth place (trading and interacting with news) with an arithmetic mean (2.115) and a percentage (70.5%).

Looking at Table (14), we find that its results indicate that the general average of the degree of how the audience is influenced as determined by the respondents reached (2.213), with a percentage of (73.8%), which is with an agreeing trend.

The previous table that influencing the public is done by questioning the patriotism of the election winners. This leads to highlighting

certain issues at the expense of others, more important, so that the public adopts the ideas and facts contained therein.

Hypothesis results:

Hypothesis I: There are statistically significant differences in the reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government according to gender.

To find out the significance of the difference in the average scores of the reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government for the sample of male and female respondents, the researcher used the T-test for two independent samples. It became clear that the mean of males (8.5818) with a standard deviation (2.58739), and the mean of females (7.2077) with a standard deviation (2.32121) and with a degree of freedom (271) degrees. The calculated T value (7.592) is greater than the tabular value (1.98). This result indicates that the difference is statistically significant at the level of (0.05) and Table (15) illustrates this.

**Table (15) The T value of the difference between males and females in the middle of the scores shows the reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government.**

Gender	Number	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Degree of freedom	T value		Level of significance
					Calculated	Tabular	
males	236	8.5818	2.58739	298	7.592	1.96	function
females	164	7.2077	2.32121				

This result indicates that there are statistically significant differences between males and females with regard to the average scores of the reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government at the level of significance (0.05) and in favor of males with an arithmetic average of (8.5818). Thus, the first hypothesis was proven to be correct.

Second hypothesis: There is a correlation between the impact of misleading news on the public's psyche and the public's follow-up of this news.

**Table No. (16) The relationship between the impact of misleading news on the public's psyche and the public's follow-up of this news**

Variable	The public is following this news.	
The impact of fake news on the psyche of the public	Pearson's correlation coefficient	Level of significance
	0.830**	0.01

The data of the previous table shows a positive correlation between the impact of fake news on the psychology of the public and the public's follow-up of this news, where the value of Pearson's coefficient was 0.830\*\* at a significance level of 0.01. The second hypothesis was thus validated.

### **The results of the study:**

1 The results of the study showed that the age group from (29 to less than 38 years) topped the rest of the other age groups by a percentage of (32.5%) and topped the level of (bachelor's) on the rest of the other scientific levels by a percentage of (35%).

2 The results of the study showed that the category (married) with a percentage of (53%) and the profession (employee) with a percentage (38.25%) topped the other categories of these two categories

3 The results of the study showed that social networking sites are issued on traditional media in the follow-up of the sample of respondents to the news of the formation of the government because of the multimedia possessed by these means, the speed of communication with the outside world and a rich source of knowledge supply.

4 The results of the study revealed that a large percentage of respondents check the news before circulating it to identify the validity of this news so as not to fall into the trap of media disinformation.

5 The results of the study showed that the reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government is the lack of public confidence in the government, due to the poor conditions within society, and the wrong understanding of information and lack of knowledge of it.

The results of the study indicated that the impact of fake news on the psyche of the public is the lack of a sense of security. This causes to a feeling of constant turmoil and anxiety and creates a gap between the citizen and the government.

6 The results of the study showed that influencing the public is done by questioning the patriotism of the election winners. this leads to highlighting certain issues at the expense of others, the most important, so that the public adopts the ideas and facts contained therein.

7 According to the results of the study, there are statistically significant differences between males and females with regard to the average scores of the reasons for the spread of misleading news about the formation of the government. Also, there is a positive correlation between the impact of misleading news on the psychology of the public and the public's follow-up of this news, thus proving the validity of the first and second hypothesis.

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