

AI generated lies in Israel-Iran conflict: A post-truth analysis

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Short report</p> <p>Main Object: International relations Scope: Iran & Israel</p> <p>Received: 14 July 2025 Revised: ----- Accepted: 14 July 2025 Published online: 16 July 2025</p> <p>Keywords: deep fake, generative AI, Israel-Iran conflict, post-truth.</p>	<p>The recent Israel -Iran war is noticeable in wielding generative AI as a war weapon to spread war information and propaganda in digital space. War is in any form, pernicious in every aspect of social life, the geo-political tension in the region has invited a sagacious retrospection on discourse relating warfare strategies, coalition, war reporting and collateral damage to the countries engaged in the war. The torrents of disinformation flooded on digital battlefield as deepfake videos and images, overshadowing conventional newspapers and audio-visual media, sparked a debate on its implications on opinion formation and media credibility. The allies of two countries accused each other for spreading erroneous data and information, and international newspapers reserved space for covering AI deepfakes slops in Israel -Iran war. This paper attempts a post truth analysis of generative AI discourse during Israel -Iran war and explores the way in which these contents are supplemented for a distorted war narratives in digital media space.</p>

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1. Introduction

On 13th June 2025, the world has woken up hearing the news of explosions in different locations of Tehran, the capital of Islamic Republic of Iran. The Israeli military's targeted strike against Iran's top military brass, assassinated the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri, Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (I.R.G.C.) Major General Hossein Salami, Commander of the Aerospace Force of the I.R.G.C. Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh, and Commander of Khatam al-Anbia Headquarters Major General Gholamali Rashid. In a televised message to nation, Ayatollah Khamenei, the supreme leader of Iran said, "The Israel today sealed a bitter and painful destiny for itself. Iran will render Israel helpless." The unprovoked and dastardly attack from Israel over the sovereign state of Iran has inaugurated a lethargic and destructive war on which the world has formed into two allies. Despite few Israel apologetic countries who had backed their ahistorical narratives on Iran's nuclear weapon and Israel's existential threat, countries strongly condemned the blatant attack as criminal, reckless, violation of international law and a threat to global peace. Masoud Pezeshkian, the president of Iran, warned Israel saying that "The Iranian nation and officials will not remain silent in the face of this crime. The Islamic Republic of Iran's legitimate and powerful response will make the enemy regret its foolish act." U.S. President Donald Trump in an interview with *Fox News* revealed that Washington was informed of the Israeli regime's attacks on targets inside Iranian territory. After attacking Iran and escalating tension in the region, reports said that Israel's Netanyahu taken/ flee to unknown location. The 12-day prolonged war comes to an end when two sides agree for a ceasefire, leaving a question to the spectators, who won the war and who is not?

How world views the conflict is predominantly decided and designed by the digital media which proliferates the contents instantly with war propaganda diffused by the occupant regime. The ban of the media persons in the affected area in Israel and the censorship of the regime dominated digital space suggests the cancelation of the truth and information, the world has a right to know and impart. The widely shared video in X app (formerly Twitter) shows a German journalist is being stopped reporting from the affected areas of Israel and Fox news fabricated story (June 28) to justify Evin prison massacre that killed 71 prisoners, innocent civilians and staff on June 23 are few implicit evidence of the violation of war protocol and the breach of journalistic ethics of the media machinery of the regime. By scrutinizing with the chronological evidence of the incident, *Tehran Times*, a government affiliated news outlet of Islamic Republic of Iran, debunks the hollowness of the Fox narratives and found that the campaign was resorted to spread disinformation to white wash the war crimes of Zionist regime. Unlike the WW1 and II witnessed in the age of print,

TV and the medium of cinema, this era is known for highly adaptable and integrative Artificial Intelligence infamous for its deep faking and distortion of facts. This is the age where the much-adulated phrase “seeing is believing” is embraced in its meaning in wholistic when it comes to image manipulation and lie fabrications. Therefore, the days of post truth has become a new normal and living with it is a new life style people tend to adopt. Exposing those framed narratives and artificially generative lies in digital space is an ethical endeavor when the elimination narratives and exclusion ideologies subjugates in majoritarian consciousness.

2. Discussion

2.1. Twelve-day war; Dis-information and public hullabaloo in digital space

On 14th June, just a day after the tension erupted in the region, the Israeli social media profiles widely shared posts describing massive internet cut off in Iran. The posts circulated stating that Iran has cut off their all-internet services so that people cannot organize a coup or communicate against the Islamic regime. Post further added, “But Elon Musk is helping the Iranian people activating Starlink, the satellite internet service in Iran for providing internet to the Iranian people.” On the contrary to these posts, Iranian state backed media outlets and social media profiles of the people of Iran were seen updating each and every piece of information to outside world regarding the conflict. This is one among such plenty of examples how the mis-information and war propaganda flooded on social media space during the short-spanned air war between two countries. Though the netizens have bifurcated in apocryphally sharing AI generated deepfake content and mis-information reportedly from both Israel and Iran, disinformation continued floating from seemingly authentic x-app and Facebook pages via telegram and Instagram.

As conflict intensified, the one-sided narration of the war events has been spread widely and conveyed an impression of Israel winning the war destroying the nuclear sites of Iran. Most of the post in the social media pages of Israel Defense Force, *Times of Israel* and pages deliberately designed to diffuse war propaganda such as *Israel War Rooms*, *Islam Invasion*, appeared with manipulated data and AI assisted images claiming to have coming from Iran. What surprising is that all these pages simultaneously shared the similar images with same textual logic and narration. The texts in the post are short, with the language of aggression, power and supremacy supplementing images with unclear data and videos generated with AI. On 15th June an X post shared by Hananya Naftali, a conman addressing himself as a journalist and digital aid to Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, with a low-resolution video potentially depicted few cars on the road in Tehran, captioned “People flee Tehran, capital of Iran” to generate a false image

of chaos and unrest inside Iran. Another technique those accounts adopted as a broad pattern of mis information and agenda is to circulate muted, unclear, short videos claiming IDF (Israel Defense Force) recorded satellite visuals intercepting missiles coming from Tehran. Widely recirculating an old clip from Iranian protest, some posts falsely suggested Iranian's supports for military actions of Israel in Iran. This way these pages circulated old videos of festivals, celebrations and mourning, decontextualizing time, space and geography to accomplish the war propaganda.

When the war escalated after Iran officially entered to the war zone with retaliatory operation dubbed "Promise 3", the tones and rhythm of these accounts suddenly tuned from war cries to victim narratives. Many such deepfake posts claimed that Iran is attacking the civilians and residential areas against international law and war protocol, in reality it was Israel who first bombed in residential areas in Tehran and killed innocent civilians.

2.2. International news media and the narratives on ai creation

The mainstream newspapers believed to be credible source of information and knowledge, suppose to perform their job without bias and skepticism in a conflict-laden world. What is pathetic is these papers have become agents for carrying bogus and rumors by supplying fuel for escalating tension and de-stability in the region. These propaganda accounts in digital space therefore took the screen shots of such news and shared throughout the millions of followers, for making it original and more authentic. On June 26th, a post appeared in *Israel War Room* sharing a screen grab of the *Network Times*, an American daily. The head line reads "Supreme leader's Absence Raises Alarm in Iran", and the caption of the tweet asks: "Where is Ayatollah? Wrong answers only". On June 29, the same account has posted another image seems to have taken from *The Telegraph*, depicting Iranian woman walking near by a huge wall, captioned "Iran moves female prisoners to 'hellhole', cattle farm jail." These tactics have worked some way that people without affiliation to any particular alliance started liking and sharing such manipulated images, which subsequently impacted on popular perception and opinion formation.

As torrents of disinformation on the conflict floods all over online information landscape, the news media coverage on AI generated deepfake trend also explicated a biased reportage. Citing US treasury department, *The Hindu*-an English daily from the largest democracy of the world, wrote, "Sources spreading these false narratives include Iranian military-linked Telegram channels and state media sources affiliated with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)." Though *BBC* and *CBS* had given a neutral reportage by exposing the fake information from both sides, *Politico.com*, an American political digital newspaper company portal accused Iran's supreme leader

Khamenei for posting AI generated image of missile launch along with Qur'anic verses written above. Since these images are easily identifiable to most as AI images and circulating as a symbolic to elevate the strength and morale of his own people, the logic to equate this with misinformation sloping from anonymous accounts are presumable and clear.

2.3. Ceasefire and Aftermath; A passerby's eye view

Much illustrious 'Rising lion' operation of Israel has become an ephemeral phenomenon when the ceasefire between Israel and Iran went into effect on June 24, 2025. The accusation on the ceasefire violation also appeared in feeds, with Israel claiming Iran launched missiles to northern Israel and Iran alleging Israel continued strike in Iran. Both nation's claim on 'historic victory' left the viewers ambiguous, as how the world perceives the war and victory has been virtually determined by the media and pro-war bloggers in the digital space.

While having a look at *Times of Israel* and *The Tehran Times* during the ceasefire and aftermath, the nature of news contents originated from both the countries informs their approach towards the war and ceasefire. Exhibiting a more antagonistic, hegemonic and a threatening appeal, *The Times of Israel* tried to camouflage the destruction, public dissent against the war in Gaza and Iran, querulous, skirmish and chaos inside the bunker. A report on June 24 in *Times of Israel* claimed that out of 28 death toll- one civilian and an off- duty soldier killed in Beersheba. Obfuscating the impact of war on civilians and properties, hiding casualties, these accounts continued twisting data and spreading fears about Islamic regime across the readers. Same day, depicting women in black burqa, holding Iranian flag just beside a huge missile in a seemingly darker color tone and a petrifying environ, the times of Israel wrote, "Its missile stock is depleted, but Iran's arsenal may still be a threat." Inside news, the photo description reads, "Members of the Iranian Basij paramilitary force march as a domestically-built missile is displayed during the force parade in Tehran, Iran, Friday, Jan. 10, 2025. Source (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)." The vary same photo has been utilized 15 times in various context under different headlines in *Times of Israel*. Projecting Iranian women repeatedly in a news image wearing the traditional Islamic attire- is a carefully designed conventional news room strategy deployed to generate a fog of panic and cajole the readers towards the war propaganda.

When the war has officially came to a halt, the feeds of *Tehran Times* on the other hand, loaded with rallies celebrating victory, postwar data, narratives of the war events, civilian toll, casualties, public response, reactions, authority's remarks, reports from funeral sites, procession, commemoration and bidding farewell to martyrs, generals and other prominent figures who sacrificed their lives in the

unprecedented attack. On June 25th, placing a photograph of massive public gathering in Tehran's Azadi tower in the front fold, *Tehran Times* headlined, "'One Nation, One Heart', How did Israel's aggression unite Iranians more than ever?" Feeds often showed people from various ethnicities, Christians, Muslims and Jews turn out in large number to offer condolences to martyrs and attending funeral processions. Another post on 28th June described, while attending funeral of martyrs and praising Iranian's resilience, Iran's Foreign Minister Sayed Abbas Araghchi proclaimed, "Iran, my homeland and body is unfamiliar with the word 'surrender'." X posts also showed women, children, husbands and wives mourns for their beloved with pride, dignity and sense of loss. This way exhibiting a true spirit of a built nation, Iran tried to flaunt their veracity to the world.

3. Conclusion

The weaponization of AI in modern warfare to shape netizens perception and public opinion formation is an inspectable discourse in today's fragile world. This war is remarkable for its tremendous interference in both digital and popular cultural space when Boom Boom Tel Aviv bursts as an audio war head in digital battlefield. The analysis of AI generated contents and news pertaining to AI flashflood reveals that the unattributed, erroneous information on digital space supplements for a larger elimination narrative which in turn facilitates to accomplish the war propaganda of Israel and allied West. The news on absence of Iran supreme leader was one such reinforced narrative, in fact the leader has seen appeared in visual and national tv channels during the short-spanned conflict. Though these lies are later proved as fabricated and false, it is unfeasible to recall what is enforced in majoritarian consciousness. Therefore, the geo-political tensions and war between conflicting ideologies in contemporary world, demands an interrogating reversive approach on media ethics, literacy and education.

Conflict of interest

The author declared no conflicts of interest.

Ethical considerations

The author has completely considered ethical issues, including informed consent, plagiarism, data fabrication, misconduct, and/or falsification, double publication and/or redundancy, submission, etc. This article was not authored by artificial intelligence.

Data availability

The dataset generated and analyzed during the current study is available from the author on reasonable request.

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