



**Faculty of Graduate Studies  
Arab American University**

**The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the  
Palestinian Cultural Components in West Bank and in  
the Green Line**

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**This thesis was submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for Master's degree in literature and  
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## Thesis Approval

The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Cultural  
Components in West Bank and in the Green Line

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### Master thesis approval

This thesis was defended successfully on 30/10/2021 and approved by:

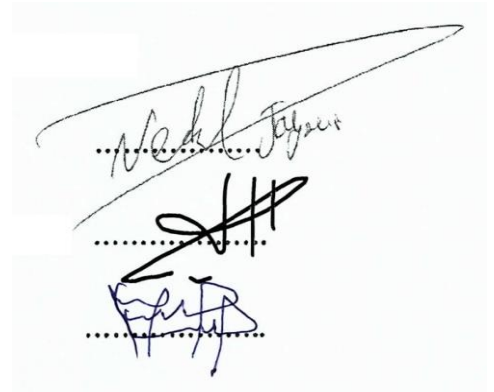
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**Declaration**

I acknowledge that what is contained in the thesis is nothing but the product of my own effort, except for what has been referred to as not my effort. I also acknowledge that no part hereof was previously submitted for a degree or scientific title or to any other scientific or research institution.

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## Dedication

“My Lord, increase me in knowledge.”

Praise is to Allah by whose grace good deeds are completed.

Another chapter of life ended, during which it introduced me to people whom I am proud of and glad to know. Days of our life passed quickly that we started them with a first step and a small dream, to reap today the fruits of this hard work, and we thank Allah for those who supported us in that. To the first teacher of humanity, prophet Mohammad, the best of prayers and peace be upon him, to my beloved family, my father, my mother, my brothers and my sister. They are the most precious treasure I have and my last resort. They are the source of my hope, my pride, and my strength on which I depend wherever I go. May Allah protect them and keep them my great blessing. To whom words can never be enough to describe what he had done for me, the person who motivated me and helped me to reach where I am today, my dear father, may Allah give you long life, health and good deed in your life.

My thanks and appreciation to all the people I met during this journey, as I learned a lot from them, and each of them had a beautiful impact in completing this work, to everyone who supported me and wished me well and success.

And I ask Allah, the Almighty, that I have presented useful knowledge that will be of benefit to others after me and that will benefit the coming generations.

## **Acknowledgment**

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## **Abstract**

This thesis aimed to study the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian cultural components across the West Bank and within the Green Line. As it started from the basic hypothesis: The Israeli occupation has a negative impact on the Palestinian cultural aspects across the West Bank and within the Green Line. It answered the main question of the thesis, which is what is the effect of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian cultural components across the West Bank and within the Green Line. The thesis focused on studying four cultural components: language, identity, behavior and heritage. This thesis used the qualitative and quantitative research method. Two tools were used, the questionnaire and telephone interviews, as a primary and main source to collect the necessary data. Moreover, many studies, books and published researches were referred to as a source of secondary information needed for the thesis.

It was found that the Israeli occupation had an influence on the Palestinian cultural components, where the impact of the occupation focused first on the younger generation. Also, the effect of the Israeli occupation was stronger and clearer on the Palestinians within the Green Line, not to mention also that there was an effect on the Palestinians across the West Bank, but to a lesser extent. The impact of the Israeli occupation focused mainly on the components of identity and behavior more than the rest of the components. The thesis recommended that there be a stronger role and a more presence for Palestinian leaders and politicians in mitigating the impact of the Israeli occupation on Palestinian culture. The thesis also recommended that there be a focus on the Palestinian curricula with regard to the inclusion of subjects related to Palestinian culture on its various components. Also, in this regard, teaching the Hebrew language should be included as an approved subject within the Palestinian

curriculum. The Palestinian students as well have to take part in preparing the cultural curriculum, as to raise their awareness for the protection of their cultural heritage. The researcher also recommended that the Palestinian authority has to pay extra efforts to offer more job opportunities especially in West Bank.

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## **Chapter One**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This thesis examines the impact of the Israeli Occupation on the cultural aspects of the Palestinians living across the West Bank and within the Green Line. It also focuses on the behavioral changes of individuals in terms of heritage, language, and behavior which eventually affect the identity and belonging of the Palestinians. It further suggests some solutions to minimize the impact of the Israeli culture on the Palestinians, and to strengthen the Palestinians' association with their original cultural heritage. It is essential to mention that the exceptional nature of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict brought this thesis into existence. The political occupation has many dimensions within the society; one of which is cultural dominance over the occupied people.

This thesis aims at demonstrating the other face of the relation between two different peoples who are sharing almost the same land; the kind of relation that has political damages on the surface, but strikes deeply to the most commonly accessible and used aspects of the Palestinian life. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict that existed more than 70 years ago has imposed different practices and life styles that are not accepted by the Palestinians. This necessitated addressing co-existence between the Palestinians and Israelis. On first glance, co-existence might not be accepted among the Palestinians, but as mentioned earlier, the nature of this long-standing conflict imposed this situation that evoked the researcher of this thesis to investigate the level of the Palestinians acceptance to the Israelis way of living and the extent they are capable to adapt to such way of living or be influenced by the Israeli cultural aspects.

On the one hand, the cultural change of the occupied might be attributed directly to the co-existence of two different communities and their way of living, as well as the way through which they communicate on a daily basis. On the other hand, the level of accepting co-existence may vary from one person to another, and this is one of the important issues addressed in this thesis. After the 1948 War, many of the Palestinians remained in their lands that are completely governed by the Israeli occupation. Consequently, those Palestinians are referred to as the Arab Citizens of 1948 Territories or the Palestinians residing within the Green Line. Regardless of the names, they are still originating from Palestinian roots, they speak Arabic, share the same Palestinian historical heritage similarly to the Palestinians living in other parts of Palestine. However, they are considered as a minority among the Israeli community. This resulted in instability among the Palestinian themselves, and raised many questions such as: Who they really are? And to what culture they belong the most?

All of the Israeli efforts are intended to steal the Palestinian heritage, and change the names of the Palestinian villages, food, clothes, and other features of the Palestinian heritage. They even used AlKofieh, the known symbol of the Palestinian Cause all over the world. The impact of the occupation is visible on the culture in both the West Bank and within the Green Line. It even amounts to the daily life activities and events. There are many obstacles that stand against the protection of the cultural heritage of Palestine. This thesis discusses how people's awareness towards the protection of cultural heritage can be increased.

The dominance of the political and cultural blockade has devastatingly affected the process of building and developing culture in Palestine, in general, and within the Green Line, in particular. This dominance is causing suffering. In this way, the Palestinian

memory will be exhausted by the political, economic, social and intellectual accumulations. Moreover, all relevant parties in charge should endeavor and address the effects of the blockade, aggression and closure to protect the Palestinian cultural reality. They should also address the weaknesses and imbalances and develop an interactive, compensatory and complementary cultural programs aimed at building the educated Palestinian human.

## **1.2 Questions of the Study:**

This thesis is dedicated to answer one main question: what is the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian cultural components in both West Bank and within the Green Line, through the below four sub-questions:

- What is the level of impact on the cultural aspects, both in West Bank and within the Green Line?
- What is the negative impact on the Palestinian cultural aspects? If any.
- Which are the Palestinian cultural aspects that are more affected by the Israeli culture?
- Which area is more affected the West Bank or the Green Line?

## **1.3 Aim and Objectives**

### **1.3.1 Aim of the Study**

This thesis aims at highlighting the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinians cultural components, in both the West Bank and within the Green Line. It is also intended to search whether people residing within the Green Line or across the West Bank are affected by the cultural aspects of the Israeli occupation, focusing on young

people in both areas. Since it is common that the young are usually influenced more compared to other groups of the society by the surrounding Israeli culture. Last but not least, the thesis is dedicated to reveal a logical cause behind this issue.

### **1.3.2 Objectives of the Study**

1. To examine the Israeli impact on the Palestinian culture, four cultural components: language, identity, traditions and behavior.
2. To find out the negative impact on the Palestinian cultural aspects.
3. To find out the Palestinian cultural aspects which are more affected by the Israeli culture.
4. To find out which areas are more affected: the West Bank or the Green Line by the Israeli occupation.

### **1.4 Statement of the Problem**

Since its beginning in Palestine, the Israeli occupation has destroyed the Palestinian presence on this land and attempted to destroy and obliterate everything that binds the Palestinians to their history and attribute these legacies to it. These practices have not only destroyed buildings and sacraments, but also robbed and expelled people from their own lands as it destroyed the Palestinian culture at the heart as well. Like other components of the Palestinian society, culture was a witness and an example of the Israeli occupation practices that aimed at erasing the Palestinian cultural heritage from the memory of its people. Hence the problem of the thesis is to reveal the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian culture and on certain cultural components that are special for the Palestinians. This is confirmed by Dr. Hanna Nasser's study

entitled "Israeli occupation's Policy towards Palestinians". In this study, he addressed the Israelis deliberate practices aimed mainly at shaking the presence of Palestinians in the occupied territories by destabilizing the culture of Palestinians in its various subjects (Nasir, 1976).

The Israeli practices to obliterate the Palestinian cultural existence have also continued to the excavation of historical places and religious sacraments, which as Hanna emphasized, would lead to a change in the historical features of the place and could be a clear threat to these religious sacraments. On another level, the Israeli authorities targeted the linguistic aspect to influence the cultural existence, as it imposed the Hebrew language as an official language for communication within the occupied territories. And the possible ways to develop and advance inside the occupied lands could be easier by learning and using this language. As Dr. Hanna described this situation: "this is a classic case of the attitude of colonial powers" (Nasir, 1976, p. 21).

### **1.5 Rationale of the Study**

The current situation of the Palestinians-Israeli struggle that share and live the same lands presents the facts that the Israeli continues to affect the life of Palestinians to create young generations that are fully influenced by the Israelis. Meanwhile, Palestinians need to stay aware to these situations that threat their existence and their belongings to the land. This thesis intends to reveal some of the ways by which the Israeli occupation affecting the Palestinian cultural life, both across the West Bank and within the Green Line.

### **1.6 Hypotheses of the Study:**

The Israeli occupation has negative effects on the cultural aspects both across West Bank and within the Green Line, not to mention the significant differences of the Israeli influence on young Palestinians in both regions. This thesis is determined to prove to the minor hypotheses that there is a cultural impact by the Israeli occupation on the Palestinians. It assumes that there is a negative impact on the Palestinian cultural components by the Israelis on both regions, and finally both regions are affected culturally by the Israeli occupation.

### **1.7 The Significance of the Study**

This thesis addresses the Palestinian-Israeli relation by approaching both parties at the same time. On a daily basis, there is a constant contact and communication that over the years has affected the mentality and the way of living for most of the Palestinians who live across the West Bank and within the occupied territories. The current political situation between the Palestinians and the Israelis imposes its own conditions. Both parties have to reach an understanding and specific way of communication especially after the 1948 War. Despite the direct Israeli practices represented by the actual occupation of lands in order to Judaize Palestine and obliterate the Palestinian identity, the Israelis seek to influence and radically change the ideology and the cultural aspects of the Palestinians, both across the West Bank and within the occupied territories. This thesis brought to the surface some of the aforesaid practices aimed at changing the way the Palestinians live. Many of the studies on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have mostly focused on the political and actual occupational actions within the Palestinians

territories. This thesis attempted to expose the Israeli efforts aimed at changing the ideology of the Palestinians across the West Bank and within the occupied territories.

### **1.8 Limitations of the Study**

- This thesis is limited to the impact of the Israeli occupation across the West Bank and within the Green Line. It is also limited to a specific period of time between November 2020 and June 2021.

### **1.9 Operational Definitions**

- **Coexistence:** coexistence as being defined in one of the seminars by Raphie Etgar as the way we change our ways of thinking and our ways of life. Upon his explanation coexistence is the stage of two people where they learn not live together, but how they would live side by side. “Coexistence Activities” (n.d).Coexistence represented the status where both Palestinians and Israelis are sharing the same land and properties at the same time. This kind of situation created a long term conflict over the legitimacy of lands and the cultural heritage as well.
- **Culture:** Culture is considered to be the complex whole that includes law, customs, beliefs, knowledge, art, morals and other features and habits acquired by members of the society. (Avruch,2004) In this domain, culture is as the Palestinian’s canvas that not only contained within the cultural components, but it contained and documented the history of the constant and long lasting conflict since the early beginning.
- **Heritage:** it’s what is valued in the past and in the present as well. It’s our ancestor’s values that contain the language, land, knowledge and culture that were accepted in the past and still accepted in the present time (John.R, 2014). For this thesis, heritage

stands for the most steadfast cultural components against the Israeli theft. It represents the original witness that proves the Palestinians' legitimacy over the lands.

- **Green Line:** as being defined by Collins dictionary the limits that are separating two groups or areas "Green Line" (n.d). In this thesis, Green Line referred to the Palestinian lands what were fully occupied by the Israeli occupation after the war of 1948, were they were fully governed and controlled by the Israeli authorities and the Palestinian citizens who managed to stay are called after then the Palestinians of the Green Line.
- **Racial Discrimination:** it's defined as the status when a person is being treated in a non-equal conditions compared to others in terms of different reasons such as country, race or origin. "Racial discrimination" (n.d). For this thesis, racial discrimination is found in two different dimensions. The first one is the discrimination between the Palestinians and the Israelis within the Green Line areas. Where Palestinians are not given the same opportunities and life conditions compared with the Israeli citizens. This kind of situation created another dimension of discrimination between the Palestinians of the Green Line and the Palestinians who are residing in West Bank.
- **Identity:** "is something unique to each of us that we assume is more or less consistent (and hence the same) over the time", (Buckingham, 2008). Preserving the original identity throughout the years that followed the Israeli occupation over Palestine, formed the first line of defense for the Palestinians, not only inside the occupied lands, but all over the worlds. Protecting the original identity against the Israeli threats helped the Palestinians to maintain their case alive all over the world.

## **Chapter Two**

### **Literature Review and Related Studies**

This chapter consists of two parts; the first is focused on reviewing literature that addressed the idea of the impact of Israeli occupation on the Palestinian cultural components. The second one reviews some of the related studies to the subject matter.

#### **2.1 Literature Review:**

Speaking about culture and its major role in building and enhancing societies, culture is considered one of the main social components through which nations and societies and civilizations are built and it is passed from one generation to another. Culture also can be referred to as the milestone by which a given society is distinguished from other societies. Culture is defined according to Hofstede defined as a collective programming for specific people's minds "Mindset" that distinguish those specific people from others. It is a group of agreed upon social norms that distinguishes one group of people and organize their intra and inter relations with others (Hofstede, 2001).

Culture has long been used in this modern era to denote the intellectual, literary and social advancement of individuals and groups. It is not only a set of ideas, but a theory of behavior that helps to chart the way of life in general, and is represented by the general nature that a people form, which are the distinctive faces of the constituents of the nation that distinguish it from other groups by what they do including their beliefs, values, language, principles, behavior, sanctities, laws and experiences. All in all, culture is every complex and includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, ethics, laws and customs (Zimmermann, 2017).

Culture is defined as the intellectual heritage that distinguished a nation from another in one way or another, due to the characteristics of each society in terms of geographical, historical, climatic and ideological conditions. The culture of any society is considered to have an identity in dealing with other and it is what makes it able to attend and communicate with different environments and is capable of dialogue and identification with global cultures (Johnson, 2013).

After the war of 1948, new political situation was imposed on the Palestinian society. After the full occupation of the Palestinian lands, they were called and referred to as the territories within the Green Line where Palestinians remained and did not leave after the war. Green Line territories represent the ceasefire boundaries following the war of 1948. They represent the battle line the Israeli used to prove its legitimacy over the occupied lands (Shlay & Rosen, 2010).

To address the Palestinian cultural situation, it is necessary to say that the cultural situation in its current form is different from its various historical stages, and this difference is not created in a moment, but rather several aspects and causes contributed to this current situation of the cultural situation. One of the most important factors that made the Palestinian cultural reality more special is the multiplicity of positions. Almawasy clarified that because of the geographical separation imposed to the Palestinians territories and each area has different political systems, this led to the multiplicity of policies and cultures as well. This situation imposes different challenges for each area apart from the others. (Mawasi, 2018)

But from the Palestinians' point of view, if we take a look into these challenges and separated areas, we will see that the Palestinian has actually created a real opportunity to prove the existence of the cultural heritage, and for that, Palestinians

made real efforts to protect the cultural heritage in light of the presence of these challenges imposed thereon. Almawasy affirms “The cultural community found itself insistent on making the issue of communication and reunification one of its top priorities in light of the current circumstances” (Mawasi, 2018.p.11-12), specifically from this situation, the Palestinian took advantage of this challenge and made it an opportunity to put a clear and explicit end to the separating policies of the Zionist entity and a clear protest against the state of division imposed thereon.

The year 1948 had a tangible impact on the current cultural situation, as Dr. Shalhat stated “it is one of the most important battles that took place on the level of identity” (Shalhat, 2018, p.21). What he means here is that the role of defending national identity against the factors of settlement and loss is extremely important to the Palestinians within the 1948 territories, as it is closely related to their national identity and historical presence in the occupied territories, and given that identity is the only savior whenever they feel alienated from their country, even though they are the historical owners of this country, and upon which a Zionist entity is based, and is stripping them of their citizenship. From here, it could be said that the defense of the 48 Palestinians of the cultural heritage is a defense of stability and sustainability for a right that was stolen from them and an eyewitness to their authentic presence on the stolen lands.

The practices of the Israeli occupation were not limited to the theft of territories and the displacement of the indigenous people outside the occupied territories, but also to the infringement of the Palestinian cultural heritage. As explained by Al-Mutawakil Taha in his book “*Between Two Decades and a Generation*”, the Israeli occupation, since its establishment, adopted a policy of cultural uprooting and a policy of spreading

national nihilism, the policy of forgery and ignorance, restricting freedoms of expression and publishing, stealing heritage and cultural and popular treasures with the aim of emptying the Palestinian of its national content and making it a slave to the occupation and its culture, or even cause to be thrown from outside its homeland (Taha & Samha, 1987). The main objective of all of this, according to Taha, is that the whole truth is never conveyed for the Palestinian individual, as he clarified: “The meaning is that the Israeli occupation seeks to obliterate, demolish and rob the components of culture in order not to be accessed by the individual, but rather seeks, above that, to prevent and restrict the ways by which culture is transmitted to the individual” (Taha & Samha, 1987).

The Palestinian culture went through different stages that deeply affected it both within the Green Line and across the West Bank since the war of 1948 till present. Since the early stages of this period it was recognized as stagnant due the displacement and lack of communication inside the Palestinian communities in West Bank, Green Line, and Gaza strip, in addition to the internal Israeli policies that categorized the Palestinians within the Green Line as minorities or the Arabs of Israel. For the Palestinians in the West Bank, the Jordanian authority also has a role in affecting the Palestinian identity. But after the war of 1967 when the Israeli occupation took the rest of the Palestinian lands, a new change started to take place within the Palestinian culture especially when the communist party failed to achieve liberty for the Palestinians. From this point, the Palestinians realized that they have to rely on themselves in their struggle against the Israeli occupation. This period brought several factors that enhanced the Palestinian cultural like the expansion of international recognition to the PLO (Palestine

Liberation Organization), and the right to the Palestinians to have their self-determination (Mi'ari, 2008).

What distinguishes the Palestinian heritage from other heritage of any nation is that it has taken on a militant character that it carries in the suffering of its people and the accumulations of pain, hardship and displacement, in addition to the aesthetic aspect that is distinguished by the Palestinian heritage. The Palestinian heritage is an integral part of the Arab and Islamic heritage, and numerous studies have raised the issue of ideological political conflict in Arab culture. Samir Ibrahim Hassan, the author of "*Culture and Society*", stated that "the issue of heritage would not have been presented with such intensity had it not been for the sense of crisis and a sense of boredom and weakness in front of the superiority of the other (Europe, the West and the developed world)" (Hassan, 2007, p. 381).

The Palestinian culture is subjected to attempts of distortion, obliteration and counterfeit by the Israeli occupation, because it constitutes identity and evidence of the existence of the Palestinian people who own the land, history and civilization, and Israel is working to obliterate this fact through a systematic policy. As for this study, it aimed to examine the impact of the Israeli occupation on four cultural components, heritage, behavior, identity and language. All these elements together form a systematic pattern that shapes the continuity of the Palestinian culture against the obliteration by the Israeli practices.

We must keep in mind the systematic Israeli policies that aimed at destroying most of the Palestinian elements in terms of demolition, burning, confiscation or judaization, especially with regard to sacred places and the destruction of media buildings, schools and cultural centers. Here we should draw attention to the importance

of the technological progress so that it contributes in an effective and real, non-routine, but sophisticated and constructive way, in breaking the geographical barriers and taking a steady and advanced step towards highlighting the Palestinian cultural identity (Safi, 2011).

## **2.2 Related Studies**

In this section, several studies have been addressed in order to elaborate on the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian cultural components.

1. In (Hammack, 2006) study: *Identity, Conflict, and Coexistence: Life Stories of Israeli and Palestinian Adolescents*.

This study is aimed at examining the ideological approaches to 30 participants divided Palestinians and Israelis adolescents participated in a co-existence program. Concentrated on the polarization of the group ideology regardless to the ideological perspective to the outer group. As discovered, the kind of relationship between the Palestinians and Israelis adolescents who come from different ideological perspectives. This study revealed by the end three different kinds of identities out from this experience. The first identity type was recognized as identity transcendence which emphasized an increase of recognition among the participants to the out-group ideology, meanwhile a reduction of recognition towards the in-group ideology. The second identity appeared to be as the identity accentuation, in which the majority of the youth participants in the study whose ideological identification have already corresponded to the in-group ideology. The third resulted from the study was the one which struggled as it appeared mostly among the participants who had difficulties to integrate in this experience. In this respect and with reference to the Palestinian-Israeli struggle, this

study reinforced the idea of the inherited perception to this kind of this struggle among young generations. Regardless to the current circumstances, it showed that each party believe and do adhere to the original ideology of this struggle and there is no way possible to agree to any kind of co-existence conditions between them both. This study corresponds to thesis questions emphasizing the reality of the Palestinian situation affected by the existence of the Israeli occupation in their lands over the years.

2. Anna Bernard's study (Bernard, 2012) .entitled: *Consuming Palestine: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in Metropolitan Popular Culture*.

This study suggested more contemporary solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict away from solutions offered by the popular culture. It focused more on using the metropolitan culture as a mean to produce solutions to the struggle. These productions promote the idea that political beliefs are just identity. Which in turn promote that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is not eternal. At this point, it urged to fantasize the solutions and produce suggestions that make people imagine and create political change that would create another kind and totally new future. This study is basically aimed at offering new solutions to the constant Palestinian-Israeli occupation conflict with more contemporary ways, but to what extent these methods or solutions would be accepted among the Palestinians and Israelis as well, from one hand.

From the other hand and as illustrated in the previous study, both parties remained more attached to the original ideology or perception of the others. And this cannot be denied according to the nature of the Palestinian-Israeli relation that was based on conflict and violence in the first place.

3. Dr. Kayed Ezzat Shreim (Shreim, 2020) study: *The Palestinian National Identity: The Controversy of Reality and the Predicament of Discourse*, an Analytical Critical Approach.

This study is aimed to centralize the identity component in the past, present and future of the Palestinian people, and from the close association of identity with the state of conflict and national struggle. The relations of the debate between the Palestinian national identity and the Palestinian national struggle throughout the modern and contemporary Palestinian history have also become clear. As cultural component, identity played a major part as one of the main motives in the Palestinian-Israeli struggle. Throughout the years of the conflict, Palestinians both across the West Bank and within the Green Line, struggled to keep their identity alive no matter what was happening considering it the mean by which they prove their belonging and their rights to the occupied lands. For them, if identity was once forgotten or neglected, the land will be lost.

4. Muhammad Amara's study (Amara, 2003) : *Recent foreign language education policies in Palestine*.

This study sheds the light on the importance of foreign languages as a primary concern towards identity formation. Historically speaking, Palestine has been more in contact with the different countries all over the world, probably more than Arab-speaking countries. This study illustrates the development of foreign language policies in Palestine following Oslo Agreement. As the Palestinians became responsible to establish their educational system. Foreign language as Hebrew and English became important components in this sector since they are considered the mean of communication with the Israeli. And here stems the importance of inserting these two languages in the Palestinian

curriculum to ensure that the coming generations are more capable to fight for their rights and save their heritage from being stolen by the Israeli occupation.

5. Samir Abdullah's study (Abdullah, 2015): *The impact of Israeli violations on the housing sector in the occupied Palestinian lands.*

This study intends to show the effects of the Israeli occupation during the aggression of 1967 in the occupied lands. As it presented the procedures applied by the Israeli occupation to prevent the growth of the Palestinian housing sectors mainly in two areas. the first includes the lands annexed by the government of Israel which includes East Jerusalem and the neighboring towns and villages that were subject to the jurisdiction of the West Jerusalem Municipality, and the second which is the rest of the occupied Palestinian lands, subject to the military rule that formed and imposed control over all Palestinian citizens' affairs until 1981. Although the occupation authorities declared a commitment to keep the laws that were in effect before the occupation on June 5, 1967, they resorted to changing and adapting them according to their strategic plans with a series of military orders that exceeded 2400 military orders in the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories, part of which was issued on the behalf of the Military Ruler in the West Bank and the other part issued by the Military Ruler of Gaza Strip.

6. A study by (Kabaha & Hussein, 2018): *Israeli educational policies and their impact on the cultural identity of internal Palestinians (challenges and solutions).*

This study explains the concept of cultural identity for the Palestinians within the Green Line. The Israeli policies aimed purposely to use the educational track to affect the cultural identity of the Palestinians living there. Knowingly and as mentioned previously, the school system and education is one of the main tools used by the Israelis

to affect the mindset and the behavior of the young Palestinians particularly. This point takes us back to one of the main questions of the thesis about the young generations becoming more affected by the Israeli occupation. And in this regard, we notice that these policies became more applied among young generations through school, even without noticing any impact from the young generations.

7. The study conducted by Abeer Dawood al-Maraghi (al-Maraghi, 2013): *The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian National Identity*.

This study is focused on the Palestinian folklore and how it managed to enrich the Palestinian culture in general to make it diverse of its kind. This specific feature of rich Palestinian folklore made it more exposed to theft and obliteration by the Israeli occupation. These challenges encountered by the Palestinian folklore and culture as well as the practices, managed to deliver a message to the Palestinians all over the world that this folklore is playing a major role in preserving the Palestinian culture against the Israeli practices. This folklore became a tool of resistance against the Israelis and it paved the way for the Palestinians to clearly recognize how would they confront the Israeli violations against their culture and folklore.

8. Khaled Abu Hadeib's article (Hudaib, 1990): *The Impact of the Intifada / Revolution on Disengagement from the Occupation Authorities*.

This article discussed in details the impact of the Palestinian Intifada in showing the course of the gradual separation of West Bank and Gaza strip from Israel. As it portrayed the economic situations existed within the Palestinian occupied lands up to the beginning of the Intifada. This article too discussed the resulted counter change that eventually led to the economic separation from the Israelis.

The article also details the struggle over power in the occupied territories, and addresses the way of dismantling the occupation, building alternative frameworks, and the emergence of “liberated areas”, which gradually led to the decline of Israeli control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also presents the Israeli efforts to disrupt the current separation path in the occupied Palestinian territories, to conclude at the end that the Intifada has achieved a certain degree of separation within the occupied Palestinian territories, highlighting the objective conditions that have prevented and are still preventing the achievement of a higher degree of separation.

From a political perspective, this article states that culture becomes in between. The Israeli occupation in some way made the Palestinians more attached to the Israeli economic since most of the Palestinians residing in the lands of 67 work on a daily basis therein. Regardless of the idea that Palestinians within the Green line live, work, and interact with the Israelis on a daily basis, the uprising of the Intifida raised the Palestinians’ awareness towards their independence and demanding their rights.

9. The General Administration for Social Sector Planning, Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development (2010): *The social and economic repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the conditions of the population in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.*

The author discussed the occupation and settlers' assaults against Palestinian religious sanctities and cultural heritage. As Israel continued to excavate Palestinian archaeological sites, in the West Bank or occupied Jerusalem, and steal Palestinian antiquities.

The study gives another example of the actual Israeli practices against the Palestinians history and culture. In different spheres of life, Israelis attempted to steal

and obliterate any evidence that belongs to the original Palestinian culture in a way to wipe out the Palestinian historical existence. The danger of these attempts relies in the constant and direct attack against the Palestinian history.

The previous studies covered the impact of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian culture from different aspects. As they discussed the political situation as well as the economic and cultural perspectives of the Palestinian situation. All these circumstances directly affected the cultural spectrum of the Palestinian life.

### **2.3 Conclusion of the Related Studies:**

With regard to the previous studies, and in light of the Palestinian-Israeli current situation, the studies have touched on this point from different perspectives to uncover the Israeli impact on the Palestinian cultural components, which gave more comprehensive understanding to this situation. However, this thesis is different from other studies in that it is related directly to the subject matter by focusing on studying four cultural components at the same time including language, folklore and traditions, and more intangible components such as identity and behavior. Furthermore, this thesis is distinguished in that it includes respondents from both, the West Bank and from within the Green Line. This in turn resulted in having more realistic and contemporary description of the cultural situation in Palestine. It also intersected with Abeer Almoragi's study which addresses the Israeli impact on the national identity. It emphasized how the Palestinian traditional folklore has enriched the Palestinian tradition and enabled its exposure to the outer world. In the same context, Amarah's study has also corresponded to this thesis by elaborating the idea of the importance of foreign language learning in the historical Palestine. Palestine was marked by teaching

foreign languages in the past since it was connected with the outer world more than the neighboring Arab countries. With the coming of Hebrew language after the Israeli occupation, it became the key means of communication between Palestinians and Israelis. This dialogue represents the Palestinians proof for their original identity. Within in the domain of Palestinian identity and its role in embodying the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the study of Dr. Kayed Shriem addresses the Palestinian identity as the solid supporter for their case against the Israelis. Aside from the current cultural situations, the General Administration for Social Sector Planning report has covered the Israeli intended practices against the Palestinian historical antiquities and architecture which basically aimed to steal the historical Palestinian culture. In the same context, (architectures & geographical) situations of the Palestinians and the impact thereof on the Palestinian existence, AbdAlhady's study has discussed about the restrictions imposed on the Palestinians with regard to the housing sectors which concentrated on imposing restriction over the Palestinian growth in this domain and how it directly affects other spheres of life. Other studies have corresponded and differed at the same time to this thesis. Which mainly have turned into the subject of the Palestinians and Israelis ideology and how they perceive the other side. Hamman's study addresses creating an experimental reality of coexistence experience between Palestinian young people and Israelis as well. The study ended by showing that the ideological thought is also inherited regardless of the surrounding environment. Based on the previous study, we could relate to Berren's study which suggested more contemporary solutions to the current Palestinian-Israeli conflict by proposing more contemporary solutions away from the popular culture and close to the metropolitan culture. This attempt would help to have political change to this situation since in his respect the Palestinian-Israeli

conflict is not eternal. But the question here is that would both sides accept and adapt such kind of solutions and apply it on the current situation.

## **Chapter Three**

### **Research Methodology**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the research methodology applied herein. It explains every element used in conducting this thesis, including the population, sample, and the techniques used for the interviews. It then analyzes the data collected and the methods used for the collection of data.

#### **3.2 Research Methodology**

Research methodology is the process used in the research by which the needed data is collected. It includes all the tools and techniques used by the researcher to conduct the study and come up with the accurate findings thereof (Igwenagu, 2016).

The researcher used the quantitative method supported by the qualitative method to present and analyze the data. As it is referred to the qualitative method is a participatory research methodology which aims to collect data that enable the researcher to have more understanding about the peoples' experiences and the way they live and how they perceive their problems and issues (Al-Mansour, 1441 H).whereas the quantitative method is the way designed to obtain data by analyzing and quantifying variables in order to have results (Apuke, 2017).

As for this thesis, since it is examining the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian cultural components, these two methods helped to give a better understanding for this phenomena and finding out the truth from the participants' perspective. This in turn would help to have more accurate and more objective results. Qualitative data resources are used in qualitative research like observation,

questionnaire and interviews, in addition to the researcher's interpretations and actions to enable observing and understanding the feelings and behaviors of the respondents (Mohajan, 2018).

This thesis followed the APA style in terms of documentation and citation of the references. The APA style stands for the American Psychological Association that was used for the first time in 1929. The APA style is used often in humanities studies as it uses the author's last name and the year of publication added to the internal text of the study. (Al-Qawasmeh, Al-Raz, Musa, & Talib, 2008)

### **3.2.1 Tools**

The researcher applied two methods for the collection of data to have accurate results; primary data and secondary data that would adequately answer the thesis questions.

#### **3.2.1.1 Secondary Data:**

(Martins, Cunha, & Serra, 2018) Defined Secondary data as data collected mainly from library material such as textbooks, academic journals and documents. It also includes information gathered from the Internet search. It contributes to presenting a better understanding and accurate proof of the data collected from the primary resources. As for this thesis, secondary data was gathered from different resources including books, journals, previous studies, and online articles.

### 3.2.1.2 Primary Data

The primary data can be defined as “the data that has been collected from first-hand experience” (Kabir, 2016, p. 204). The primary data can also refer to the authentic unpublished data that has not changed due the human being interference (Kabir, 2016). The importance of primary data comes from the fact that it is necessary to have the data from the original resource and work on it afterwards. As for this thesis, the primary data was collected mainly through two methods: the questionnaire and telephone interviews.

Questionnaire can be defined according to Kabir as: a research tool that consists of several questions which in turn could be used in order to obtain data from the respondents to answer research questions (Kabir, 2016). This thesis used the closed-ended questionnaire under which the respondents were asked to choose an answer from a limited number of choices. The questionnaire was also designed according to Likart Scale based on which the respondents select one of the answers according to their opinions and point of views (Al-Qawasmeh, Al-Raz, Musa, & Talib, 2008). As for this thesis, the questionnaire consisted of two parts. The first part consisted of the independent variables: region, gender, age, education and work. The second part consisted of four sections under which four cultural components were examined: language, heritage, identity and behavior. Also, in each part, four to five questions were asked with regard to the cultural component. The questionnaire after that was edited by four academic experts whom recommendations were either to modify some of the questions or even delete some thereof, in a matter that best serves the subject of the thesis.

Moreover, the telephone interviews were conducted for extra analysis and explanations that might not be extracted from the questionnaire. Interview is the process

which involves asking questions and in response having answers from the participants, (Kabir, 2016). Bernard ,(1980) as cited in (Kabir, 2016)“ semi-structured interviewing is best used when you won't get more than one chance to interview and when you will be sending several interviewers out in the field to collect data.”

Therefore, the researcher used the semi-structured interviews and conducted several sessions with academic/economic experts whom professional and educational backgrounds were close enough to the thesis.

### **3.2.2 Data Analysis**

For the telephone interview, the analysis of the data is presented and displayed as they went on during the interview. Then the data was summarized and interpreted into a conclusion. This aimed at presenting and analyzing the data to elaborate more on the thesis objective and support the findings. As for the analysis of the data collected from the questionnaire, it was analyzed using the SPSS Software. SPSS is software that is designed for data management and statistical analysis. (Frey, 2017).The SPSS software enabled the researchers to conduct their own complex studies and have their own analysis as well.

### **3.3 Population**

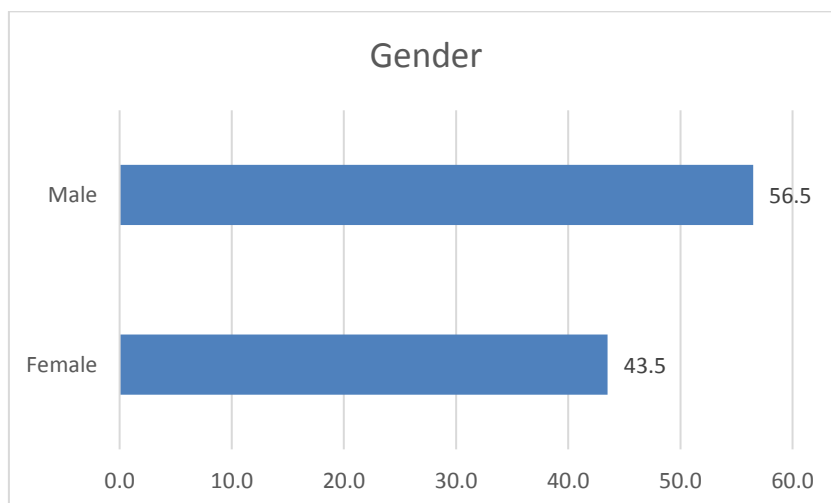
For this thesis, the population consisted of the Palestinian citizens residing in both West Bank and within the Green Line. The estimated population of West Bank was approximately 3.05 million, 1.55 million of whom were males and 1.50 million females, based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics for 2019 (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020). The Palestinian population in Israel was estimated by 1.5

million in mid-2019, with 51% living in Galilee, 32% in the Triangle and the Palestinian coastal cities, while 17% in the Negev, half in villages not officially recognized by Israel (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020).

### 3.4 Sample

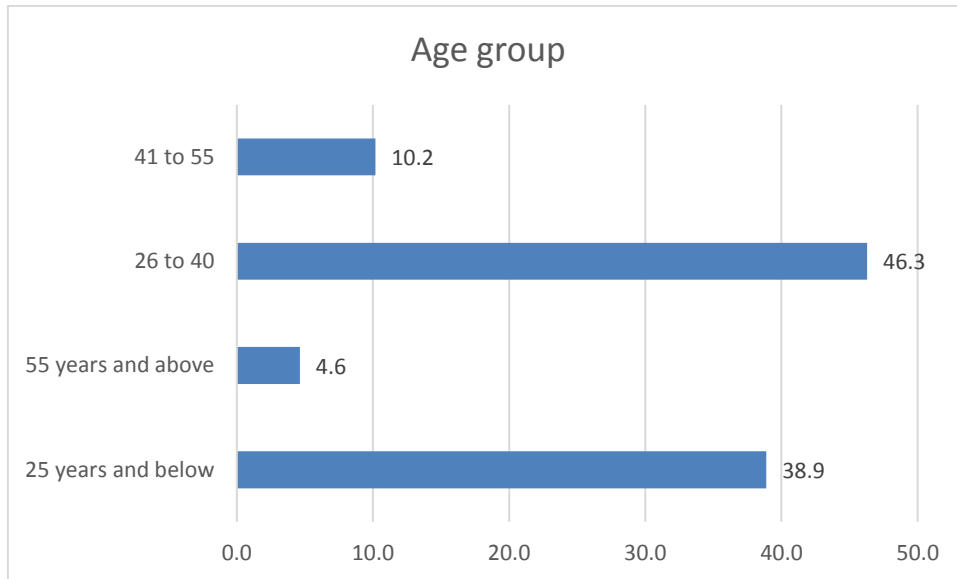
The sample population for this thesis consisted of Palestinians respondents from the West Bank and the Green Line who answered up to 110 questionnaires coming from different backgrounds and groups.

Five demographic variables were taken into consideration regarding the sample: age, region, education, work and gender. The level of participation in the questionnaire is 48% in the West Bank compared to 41% within the Green Line, while 11% none of both areas participated.



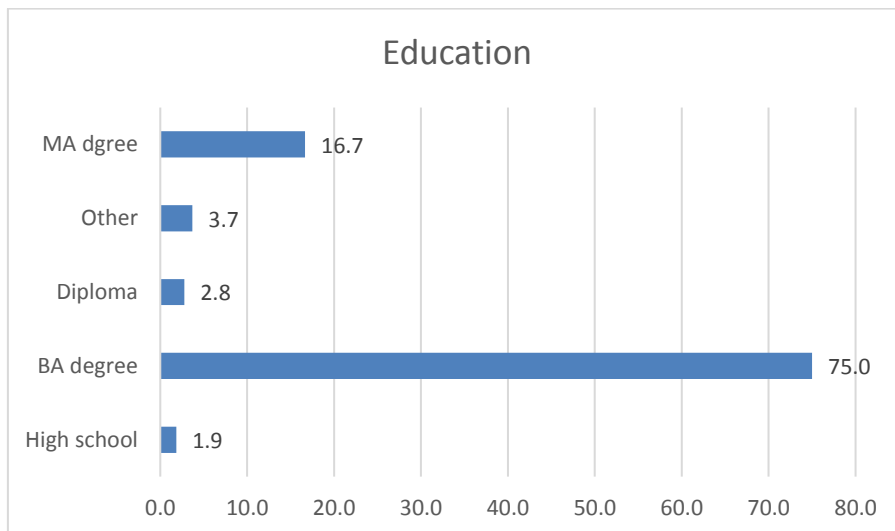
*Figure 3.1participants Gender*

Regarding the gender, 44% of the participants were females while 56% were males.



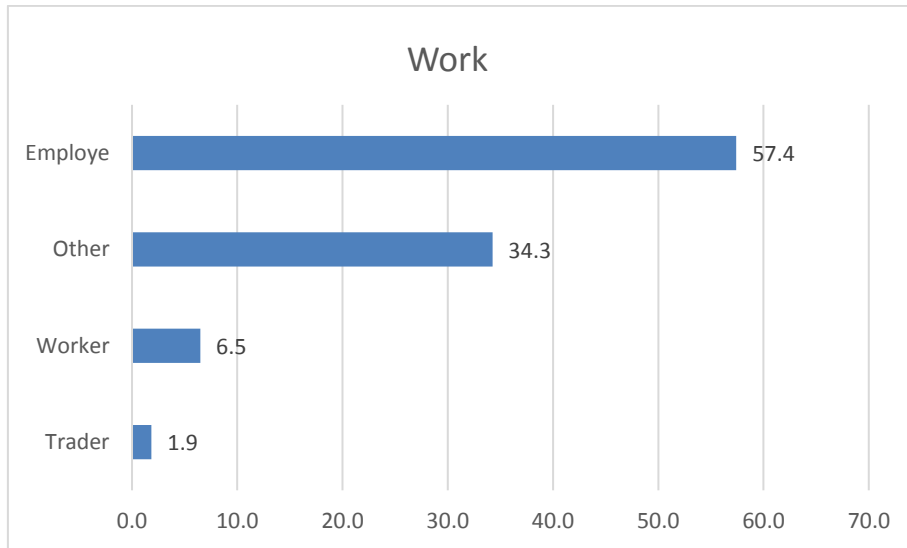
### *3.2 participants' age*

In terms of age, 46% of the participants aged between 26-40 years old, 28% aged below 25 years old, 10% aged between 41-55 years old, and 5% aged above 55 years old.



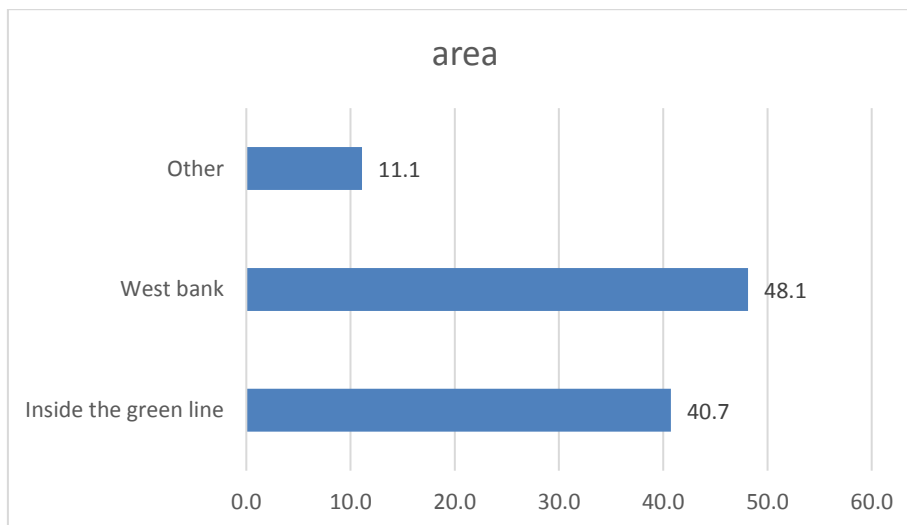
### *3.3 The education of participants*

The educational background of the participants also mattered in this thesis. The results showed that 75% of the participants hold Bachelor degree while 17% of them hold Masters. Moreover, the results also showed that 3% hold Diploma, 2% hold High school and 4% others.



### *3.4 work of participants*

As shown on the graph 3.4, 57% of the respondents are employees, 2% are merchants, around 7% are workers, and 34% of the respondents are other than that.



### *3.5 areas of participants*

Graph 3.5 shows that 40.7% of the participants are from the Green Line areas, whereas 48.1% are from West Bank.

### **3.5 Conclusion**

This chapter begins with an introduction describing the components therein. It moved then to address the research design and style as this thesis took the qualitative form to come up with the needed data. This was followed by the research methodology that described the type of tools used to conduct this thesis as the researcher used the questionnaire and telephone interviews as primary data sources in addition to the library sources for gathering information as a secondary source. The data is collected then analyzed and discussed until the results are concluded and discussed as well.

## Chapter Four

### Research Findings and Analysis

#### 4.1 Introduction:

This chapter reviews the methods used to answer the thesis questions, represented in two tools; the questionnaire and telephone interviews. The first tool was distributed in both West Bank and within the Green Line through Facebook. The respondents of the thesis amounted to 110, coming from different backgrounds and groups of the society. Five demographic variables have been taken into considerations in the questionnaire: age, region, education, work and gender. The respondents of the West Bank represented 48% compared to 41% within the Green Line. In terms of the variable of gender, 44% of the respondents were females while 56% were males. The age variable has varied in the thesis too: as 46% of the respondents aged between 26 to 40, 28% were younger than 25, 10% respondents aged between 41 to 55, and 5% were above 55. In terms of the educational background, the findings of the thesis indicated that 75% of the respondents hold Bachelor Degree while 17% hold Master's Degree. The findings also indicated that 3% of the respondents hold Diploma, 2% hold High School and 4% hold other academic qualifications.

As to the second tool, the telephone interviews, three interviews were conducted via the telephone covering three different backgrounds or sectors: political, cultural, historical, and economic. The purpose of these interviews was to answer the questions raised by the thesis and elaborate on the same.

The first part herein covered the analysis of the answers of respondents to the questionnaire mainly focused on the impact of the Israeli occupation on four components, namely: Identity, Heritage, Language, and Behavior. Each variable

included several questions that are all related to the subject matter of the thesis to help the respondents choose their answers and to ensure accurate and honest answers.

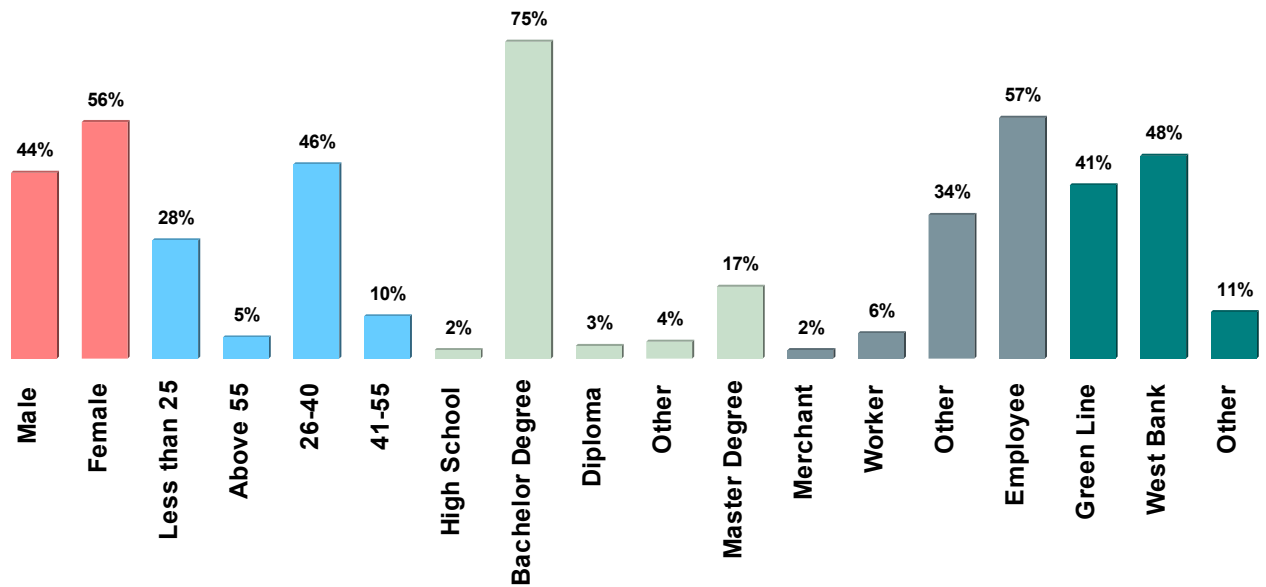
The second part covered the analysis of the telephone interviews conducted with three different experts specialized in cultural, economic, historical and political fields.

#### **4. 2: Data Analysis:**

This part presents the demographic features of the samples and the analysis of the respondents' answers as demonstrated in the tables. In this regard, the percentages of the respondents came as the following:

Graph 4.1 illustrates the demographic features of the sample as follows:

- 44% Females VS. 65% Males
- 28% less than 25 years old, 26% aged between 26 to 40 years old, 10% aged between 41 to 55 years old, 5% above 55 years old.
- 75% hold Bachelor Degree, 17% hold Master's Degree, 3% hold Diploma, 2% hold High School, and 4% hold other academic qualifications.
- 57% are employees, 6% are workers, 2% are merchants, and 34% practice other professions.
- 48% are from the West Bank, 41% are within the Green line, and 11% are from other territories. (11% represents the participation of the Palestinians living in some of the Arab countries)



*graph 4.1 Demographic Features 1*

## Graph 4.1 Demographic Features

### 4.2.1: Analyzing Primary Data:

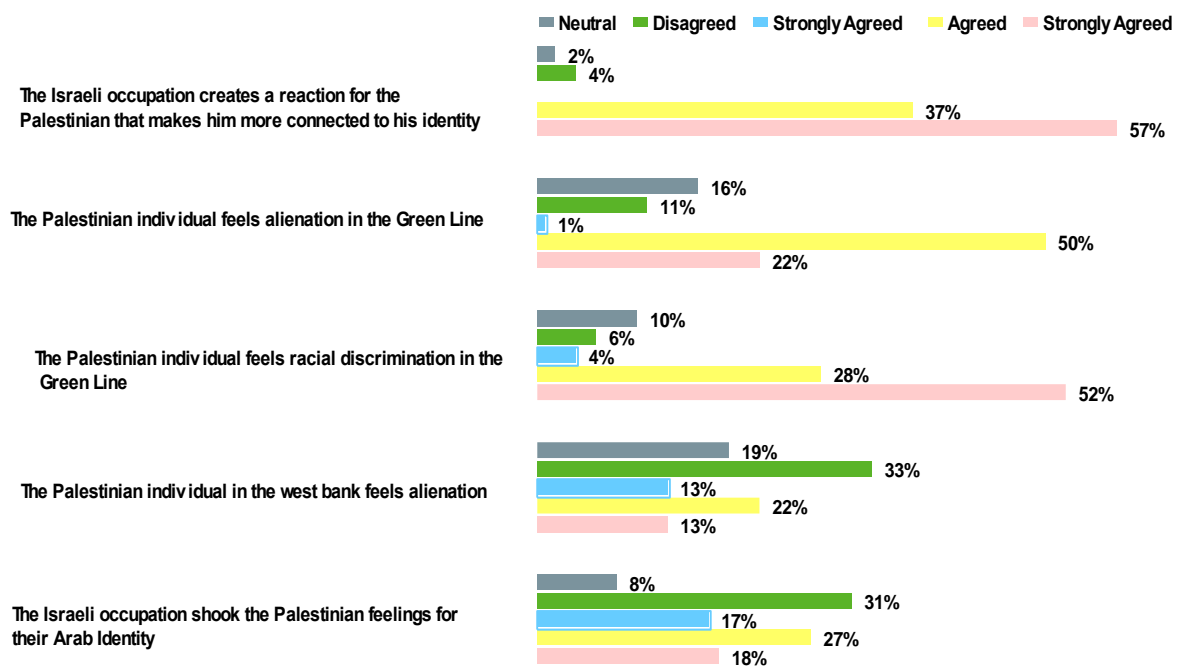
This part covers the analysis of the data collected from the answers of respondents. For each variable, the analysis will be presented in the form of a table.

#### 4.2.1.1 First Variable: Identity

This variable looks into the level of impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian Identity. It consists of four detailed questions as shown in the table 4.1. These sub-questions assess the degree to which the Palestinian identity is affected by the Israeli occupation in addition to the different aspects related to identity.

Graph 4.2 shows that 94% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the practices of the Israeli occupation results in making them more attached to their identity, where 72% of the respondents agreed that Palestinians feel alienated within the

Green Line. This percentage is broken down as 91% within the Green Line and 59% from the West Bank. In this regard, 80% of the respondents emphasized that Palestinians within the Green Line feel alienated. This percentage is broken down as 88% within the Green Line and 71% from the West Bank. On the contrary, 46% of the respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that Palestinians in the West Bank feel alienated. This percentage is broken down as 28% within the Green Line and 44% from the West Bank. In terms of the Arabic identity, the analysis showed that 48% of the respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the Israeli occupation is somehow affecting their Arabic identity, whereas 45% agreed.



**Graph 4.2: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Identity**

**Table 4.1: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Identity (in terms of Gender/Age)**

		Gender		Age			
		Female	Male	Below 25 years	Above 55 years	Between 26 – 40	Between 41 - 55
<b>The practices of the Israeli occupation leads the Palestinians to be more attached to their identity</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	4%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%
	<b>Disagree</b>	6%	2%	2%	0%	4%	9%
	<b>Agree</b>	34%	39%	36%	60%	42%	9%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	55%	59%	<b>60%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Palestinians feel alienated within the Green Line</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	13%	18%	10%	20%	24%	0%
	<b>Disagree</b>	13%	10%	2%	20%	16%	18%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	2%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
	<b>Agree</b>	53%	48%	<b>62%</b>	40%	40%	<b>55%</b>
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	19%	25%	24%	20%	20%	<b>27%</b>
<b>Palestinians face racial discrimination within the Green Line</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	17%	28%	12%	20%	34%	18%
	<b>Disagree</b>	13%	18%	12%	20%	20%	9%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	4%	2%	2%	0%	4%	0%
	<b>Agree</b>	40%	39%	40%	<b>60%</b>	34%	55%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	26%	13%	33%	0%	8%	18%
<b>Palestinians feel alienated across the West Bank</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	11%	25%	14%	40%	20%	18%
	<b>Disagree</b>	49%	21%	45%	0%	28%	27%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	15%	11%	14%	20%	14%	0%
	<b>Agree</b>	19%	25%	21%	20%	20%	36%

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	6%	18%	5%	20%	18%	18%
<b>The Israeli occupation has impacted the Arab identity of the Palestinians</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	4%	11%	5%	40%	10%	0%
	<b>Disagree</b>	45%	20%	43%	20%	22%	27%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	21%	13%	19%	0%	18%	9%
	<b>Agree</b>	13%	38%	17%	40%	32%	36%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	17%	18%	17%	0%	18%	27%

Table 4.1 shows that 88% of the respondents aged between 41-55 agreed that the practices of the Israeli occupation resulted in making the Palestinians more attached to their identity. It also showed that 86% of the young respondents (below 25 years old) feel more alienated within the Green Line. The results indicated that 56% of male respondents agreed that the Israeli occupation has impacted their Arabic Identity and 30% of the female respondents agreed as well.

**Table 4.2: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Identity (in terms of Area)**

		Area		
		Green Line	West Bank	Other
<b>The practices of the Israeli occupation leads the Palestinians to be more attached to their identity</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	2%	2%	0%
	<b>Disagree</b>	5%	4%	0%
	<b>Agree</b>	36%	40%	25%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	57%	54%	75%
<b>Palestinians feel alienated within the Green Line</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	2%	25%	25%
	<b>Disagree</b>	5%	15%	17%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	2%	0%	0%
	<b>Agree</b>	61%	40%	50%

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	30%	19%	8%
<b>Palestinians face racial discrimination within the Green Line</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	5%	13%	17%
	<b>Disagree</b>	7%	8%	0%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	0%	8%	0%
	<b>Agree</b>	20%	31%	42%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	68%	40%	42%
<b>Palestinians feel alienated across the West Bank</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	11%	19%	42%
	<b>Disagree</b>	48%	25%	17%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	14%	12%	17%
	<b>Agree</b>	23%	21%	25%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	5%	23%	0%
<b>The Israeli occupation has impacted the Arab identity of the Palestinians</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	2%	13%	8%
	<b>Disagree</b>	45%	21%	17%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	20%	10%	33%
	<b>Agree</b>	14%	38%	25%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	18%	17%	17%

Table 4.2 indicates that 88% of the respondents within the Green Line face racial discrimination compared to 71% across the West Bank. It also shows that 44% of the Palestinians within the Green Line feel alienated compared to 28% of the Palestinians across the West Bank. The table also shows that 32% of the respondents within the Green Line agreed that the Israeli occupation has impacted their Arabic identity, whereas 55% of the Palestinians across the West Bank agreed on the same. And this is what Alsahly asserted in his article *the Palestinians of 48 and the Israeli racist politics and laws*, that one of the most obvious scenes of racism is that Israelis attempts to expel the Arab minority residing within the Green Line areas outside to West Bank and replace them with the Jewish settlers (Alsahly, 2009).

**Table 4.3: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Identity (in terms of Education/Work**

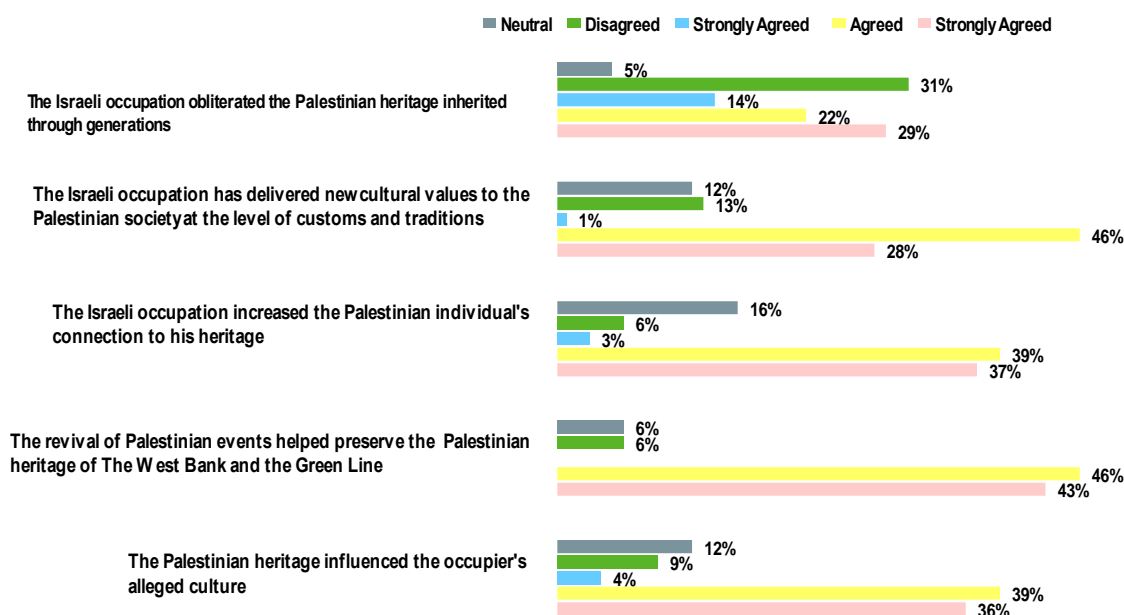
		Education					Work			
		High School	BA	Diploma	Other	MA	Merchant	Worker	Other	Employee
<b>The practices of the Israeli occupation leads the Palestinians to be more attached to their identity</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
	<b>Disagree</b>	0%	4%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	5%	3%
	<b>Agree</b>	50%	37%	33%	25%	39%	50%	29%	38%	37%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	50%	57%	67%	75%	56%	50%	71%	57%	56%
<b>Palestinians feel alienated within the Green Line</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	50%	10%	0%	25%	39%	0%	0%	11%	21%
	<b>Disagree</b>	0%	11%	33%	0%	11%	0%	14%	11%	11%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
	<b>Agree</b>	0%	56%	67%	75%	22%	50%	29%	65%	44%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	50%	22%	0%	0%	28%	50%	57%	14%	23%
<b>Palestinians face racial discrimination within the Green Line</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	50%	9%	0%	25%	11%	0%	14%	8%	11%
	<b>Disagree</b>	0%	6%	0%	0%	11%	0%	0%	8%	6%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	0%	4%	33%	0%	0%	0%	14%	0%	5%
	<b>Agree</b>	0%	28%	0%	0%	39%	100%	43%	22%	27%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	50%	53%	67%	75%	39%	0%	29%	62%	50%
<b>Palestinians feel alienated across the West Bank</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	0%	19%	0%	50%	17%	50%	0%	19%	19%
	<b>Disagree</b>	0%	37%	33%	50%	17%	0%	0%	51%	27%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	0%	11%	33%	0%	22%	0%	14%	8%	16%
	<b>Agree</b>	50%	22%	0%	0%	28%	0%	57%	16%	23%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	50%	11%	33%	0%	17%	50%	29%	5%	15%
<b>The Israeli occupation has impacted the Arab identity of the Palestinians</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	0%	10%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	14%	6%
	<b>Disagree</b>	0%	31%	67%	50%	22%	0%	14%	46%	24%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	0%	15%	0%	0%	33%	50%	14%	11%	19%

	<b>Agree</b>	100%	27%	33%	25%	17%	0%	43%	14%	34%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	0%	17%	0%	25%	22%	50%	29%	16%	16%

#### 4.2.1.2 Second Variable: Heritage

This variable looks into the level of impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian heritage both across the West Bank and within the Green Line. The respondents were asked to answer five sub-questions under this variable aimed at revealing the Israeli attempts to steal and obliterate the Palestinian heritage. These questions are also aimed at showing the extent to which the components of the Palestinian heritage are affected by the Israeli occupation, in addition to testing the level of awareness of the Palestinians on the Israeli attempts against their heritage. Table 4.4 shows the questions of this variable.

Graph 4.3 shows that 45% of the respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the Israeli occupation has obliterated the Palestinians heritage, while 51% of the respondents agreed. According to the findings, the majority of the respondents by about 74% agreed that the Israeli occupation has introduced new cultural values at the level of customs and traditions. This percentage is broken down as 43% within the Green Line, and 62% across the West Bank. About 89% of the respondents agreed that the Israeli occupation made the Palestinians more attached to their heritage, whereas 75% of the respondents agreed that the Palestinian culture has influenced the Israeli culture.



**Graph 4.3: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Heritage**

**Table 4.4: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Heritage (in terms of Gender/Age)**

		Gender		Age			
		Female	Male	Less 25 years	Above 55 years	From 26 to 40	From 41 to 55
The Israeli occupation obliterated the Palestinian heritage inherited through generations	Neutral	6%	3%	2%	0%	8%	0%
	Disagree	32%	30%	26%	20%	32%	45%
	Strongly Disagree	21%	8%	21%	0%	10%	9%
	Agree	17%	26%	17%	60%	26%	9%
	Strongly Agree	23%	33%	33%	20%	24%	36%
The Israeli occupation has introduced new	Neutral	13%	11%	10%	0%	14%	18%
	Disagree	13%	13%	5%	0%	20%	18%

cultural values to the Palestinian society at the level of customs and traditions	Strongly Disagree	0%	2%	0%	0%	2%	0%
	Agree	43%	49%	50%	80%	42%	36%
	Strongly Agree	32%	25%	36%	20%	22%	27%
The Israeli occupation increased the Palestinians' connection to their heritage	Neutral	13%	18%	12%	20%	22%	0%
	Disagree	4%	7%	2%	20%	4%	18%
	Strongly Disagree	4%	2%	2%	0%	2%	9%
	Agree	43%	36%	45%	20%	36%	36%
	Strongly Agree	36%	38%	38%	40%	36%	36%
The Palestinian heritage revival events helped in preserving the Palestinian heritage across the West Bank and within the Green Line	Neutral	11%	2%	10%	0%	2%	9%
	Disagree	4%	7%	0%	0%	8%	18%
	Agree	45%	48%	50%	60%	48%	18%
	Strongly Agree	40%	44%	40%	40%	42%	55%
The Palestinian heritage influenced the occupation's alleged culture]	Neutral	11%	13%	7%	20%	14%	18%
	Disagree	9%	10%	2%	0%	14%	18%
	Strongly Disagree	6%	2%	7%	0%	2%	0%
	Agree	36%	41%	43%	40%	38%	27%
	Strongly Agree	38%	34%	40%	40%	32%	36%

Table 4.4 indicates that 59% of the male respondents agreed that the Israeli occupation obliterated the Palestinian heritage compared to 40% of the female respondents. This percentage increased among the Palestinians who are above 55 years old compared to other age groups. This category also agreed that the Israeli occupation has introduced new cultural values at the level of customs and traditions.

**Table 4.5: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Heritage (in Terms of Area)**

		Area		
		Green Line	West Bank	Other
The Israeli occupation obliterated the Palestinian heritage inherited through generations	Neutral	2%	8%	0%
	Disagree	30%	31%	33%
	Strongly Disagree	25%	0%	33%
	Agree	11%	35%	8%
	Strongly Agree	32%	27%	25%
The Israeli occupation has introduced new cultural values to the Palestinian society at the level of customs and traditions	Neutral	5%	13%	33%
	Disagree	11%	13%	17%
	Strongly Disagree	0%	0%	8%
	Agree	45%	52%	25%
	Strongly Agree	39%	21%	17%
The Israeli occupation increased the Palestinians' connection to their heritage	Neutral	5%	25%	17%
	Disagree	5%	8%	0%
	Strongly Disagree	5%	2%	0%
	Agree	48%	33%	33%
	Strongly Agree	39%	33%	50%
The Palestinian heritage revival events helped in preserving the Palestinian heritage across the West Bank and within the Green Line	Neutral	9%	4%	0%
	Disagree	2%	10%	0%
	Agree	50%	40%	58%
	Strongly Agree	39%	46%	42%
The Palestinian heritage influenced the occupation's alleged culture[	Neutral	9%	12%	25%
	Disagree	2%	15%	8%
	Strongly Disagree	7%	2%	0%
	Agree	41%	38%	33%
	Strongly Agree	41%	33%	33%

Table 4.5 shows that 63% of the Palestinians across the West Bank agreed that the Israeli occupation obliterated the Palestinian heritage compared to 43% within the Green Line. About 82% of the respondents within the Green Line agreed that the Palestinian culture influenced the Israeli culture, compared to 71% of those across the West Bank. Another racist scene that is directly applied by the Israelis is that Palestinians residing within the Green Lines are forcibly panned to apply any restoration actions to their old houses or even are easily able to have permits to build new houses in the area. This all aims to Judaize the ancient Palestinian architecture and obliterate the Palestinian history as well (Salameh, 2018).

**Table 4.6: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Heritage (in terms of Education/Work)**

		Education					Work			
		High School	BA	Diploma	Other	MA	Merchant	Worker	Other	Employee
<b>The Israeli occupation obliterated the Palestinian heritage inherited through generations</b>	Neutral	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	2%
	Disagree	0%	30%	67%	75%	22%	0%	14%	35%	31%
	Strongly Disagree	0%	16%	0%	0%	11%	50%	0%	14%	15%
	Agree	50%	19%	0%	0%	44%	0%	43%	16%	24%
	Strongly Agree	50%	30%	33%	25%	22%	50%	43%	24%	29%
<b>The Israeli occupation has introduced new cultural values to the Palestinian society at the level of customs and traditions</b>	Neutral	0%	10%	33%	0%	22%	0%	14%	5%	16%
	Disagree	0%	11%	0%	50%	17%	0%	0%	14%	15%
	Strongly Disagree	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
	Agree	50%	47%	67%	50%	39%	50%	71%	49%	42%
	Strongly Agree	50%	31%	0%	0%	22%	50%	14%	32%	26%
<b>The Israeli occupation increased the</b>	Neutral	0%	16%	0%	0%	22%	0%	14%	11%	19%
	Disagree	50%	4%	0%	0%	11%	0%	29%	0%	6%

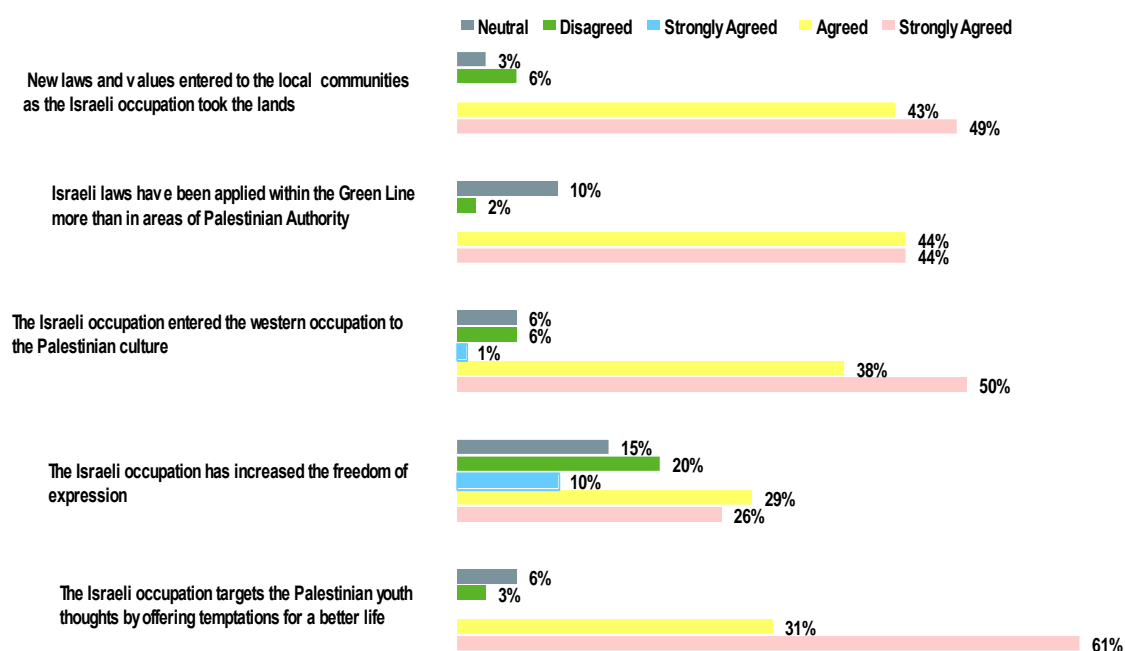
<b>Palestinians' connection to their heritage</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	0%	1%	33%	0%	6%	0%	0%	5%	2%
	<b>Agree</b>	0%	44%	0%	50%	22%	50%	0%	49%	37%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	50%	35%	67%	50%	39%	50%	57%	35%	35%
<b>The Palestinian heritage revival events helped in preserving the Palestinian heritage across the West Bank and within the Green Line</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	0%	6%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	8%	5%
	<b>Disagree</b>	0%	4%	33%	0%	11%	0%	14%	5%	5%
	<b>Agree</b>	50%	51%	0%	25%	39%	100%	43%	49%	44%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	50%	40%	67%	75%	44%	0%	43%	38%	47%
<b>The Palestinian heritage influenced the occupation's alleged culture[</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	0%	12%	33%	0%	11%	0%	0%	8%	16%
	<b>Disagree</b>	0%	11%	0%	0%	6%	0%	14%	8%	10%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	0%	2%	33%	0%	6%	0%	0%	5%	3%
	<b>Agree</b>	50%	37%	0%	50%	50%	50%	57%	46%	32%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	50%	37%	33%	50%	28%	50%	29%	32%	39%

#### **4.2.1.3 Third Variable: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Behavior of the Palestinians**

The third variable is aimed at looking into the level of impact of the Israeli occupation on the behavior of the Palestinians. Five sub-questions fall under this variable. These questions mainly focused on the Palestinians' awareness about the extent to which the Israeli occupation is directly affecting their daily behaviors and customs. The table below shows the questions that fall under this variable.

Graph 4.4 indicates that 92% of the respondents agreed that the Israeli occupation has introduced new laws and values into the Palestinian community. It also shows that 88% of the respondents stated that the Israeli laws apply only within the Green Line rather than across the West Bank. This percentage supports the fact that the Israeli occupation has brought the western culture into the Palestinian community.

About 30% of the respondents disagreed that the Israeli occupation has contributed to increasing the Palestinians' freedom of expression. The majority of the respondents constituting 92% approved that the Israeli occupation is targeting the mentality and way of thinking of the Palestinians by offering them opportunities for a better life.



**Graph 4.4: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Behavior**

**Table 4.7: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Behavior (in terms of Gender/Age)**

		Gender		Age			
		Female	Male	Below 25 years	Above 55 years	Between 26 – 40	Between 41 - 55
New laws and values are introduced to the local communities as the Israeli occupation seized the lands	Neutral	0%	5%	0%	0%	2%	18%
	Disagree	4%	7%	2%	0%	6%	18%
	Agree	30%	52%	21%	80%	58%	36%
	Strongly Agree	66%	36%	76%	20%	34%	27%
The Israeli laws are applied within the Green	Neutral	4%	15%	7%	20%	12%	9%
	Disagree	0%	3%	0%	0%	2%	9%

<b>Line rather than across the territories of Palestinian Authority</b>	<b>Agree</b>	49%	41%	50%	40%	44%	27%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	47%	41%	43%	40%	42%	55%
<b>The Israeli occupation introduced the western culture into the Palestinian's</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	2%	8%	5%	0%	8%	0%
	<b>Disagree</b>	2%	8%	2%	0%	4%	27%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	0%	2%	0%	0%	2%	0%
	<b>Agree</b>	21%	51%	21%	80%	48%	36%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	74%	31%	71%	20%	38%	36%
<b>The Israeli occupation has contributed to increasing the freedom of expression</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	9%	20%	10%	20%	18%	18%
	<b>Disagree</b>	15%	25%	7%	0%	34%	18%
	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	2%	16%	7%	0%	14%	9%
	<b>Agree</b>	38%	21%	43%	60%	16%	18%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	36%	18%	33%	20%	18%	36%
<b>The Israeli occupation is targeting the Palestinian youth way of thinking by tempting them with a better life and opportunities</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	2%	8%	5%	0%	4%	18%
	<b>Disagree</b>	4%	2%	2%	0%	4%	0%
	<b>Agree</b>	28%	33%	29%	20%	34%	27%
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	66%	57%	64%	80%	58%	55%

Table 4.7 shows that the respondents aged 41-55 have totally disagreed that the Israeli occupation has introduced new laws and values into the local communities. Noticeably, the female respondents representing 95% have agreed that the Israeli occupation has introduced the western culture into the Palestinian's, compared to 82% of the male respondents. About 74% of the female respondents agreed that the Israeli Occupation has contributed to increasing the Palestinians' freedom of expression, compared to 39% of the male respondents.

**Table 4.8: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Behavior (in Terms of Education/Work)**

		Education					Work			
		High School	BA	Diploma	Other	Master	Merchant	Worker	Other	Employee
New laws and values are introduced to the local communities as the Israeli occupation seized the lands	Neutral	0%	2%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	5%
	Disagree	0%	5%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	11%	3%
	Agree	50%	37%	100%	25%	61%	0%	57%	24%	53%
	Strongly Agree	50%	56%	0%	25%	33%	100%	43%	65%	39%
The Israeli laws are applied within the Green Line rather than across the territories of Palestinian Authority	Neutral	50%	7%	0%	50%	11%	50%	0%	5%	13%
	Disagree	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
	Agree	50%	47%	67%	0%	39%	50%	29%	51%	42%
	Strongly Agree	0%	43%	33%	50%	50%	0%	71%	43%	42%
The Israeli occupation introduced the western culture into the Palestinian's	Neutral	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	8%
	Disagree	0%	5%	0%	50%	0%	0%	14%	8%	3%
	Strongly Disagree	0%	0%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
	Agree	50%	33%	33%	25%	61%	50%	43%	24%	45%
	Strongly Agree	50%	54%	33%	25%	39%	50%	43%	65%	42%
The Israeli occupation has contributed to increasing the freedom of expression	Neutral	50%	17%	0%	0%	6%	0%	14%	8%	19%
	Disagree	0%	15%	0%	50%	44%	0%	14%	11%	27%
	Strongly Disagree	0%	12%	33%	0%	0%	50%	14%	5%	11%
	Agree	50%	28%	67%	0%	28%	0%	43%	46%	18%
	Strongly Agree	0%	27%	0%	50%	22%	50%	14%	30%	24%
The Israeli occupation is targeting the Palestinian youth way of thinking by tempting them with a better life and opportunities	Neutral	0%	5%	0%	25%	6%	0%	29%	0%	6%
	Disagree	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	2%
	Agree	0%	33%	67%	25%	17%	50%	0%	32%	32%
	Strongly Agree	100%	58%	33%	50%	78%	50%	71%	62%	60%

**Table 4.9: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Behavior (in Terms of Area)**

		Area		
		Green Line	West Bank	Other
New laws and values are introduced to the local communities as the Israeli occupation seized the lands	Neutral	0%	4%	8%
	Disagree	5%	8%	0%
	Agree	23%	56%	58%
	Strongly Agree	73%	33%	33%
The Israeli laws are applied within the Green Line rather than across the territories of Palestinian Authority	Neutral	7%	10%	25%
	Disagree	0%	4%	0%
	Agree	48%	40%	50%
	Strongly Agree	45%	46%	25%
The Israeli occupation introduced the western culture into the Palestinian's	Neutral	2%	8%	8%
	Disagree	7%	6%	0%
	Strongly Disagree	0%	2%	0%
	Agree	25%	44%	58%
	Strongly Agree	66%	40%	33%
The Israeli occupation has contributed to increasing the freedom of expression	Neutral	11%	13%	33%
	Disagree	7%	27%	42%
	Strongly Disagree	2%	15%	17%
	Agree	41%	23%	8%
	Strongly Agree	39%	21%	0%
	Neutral	0%	10%	8%
	Disagree	2%	4%	0%
	Agree	23%	37%	33%
	Strongly Agree	75%	50%	58%

About 91% of the Palestinians within the Green Line have agreed that the Israeli occupation has introduced the western culture into the Palestinian's compared to 84% of the Palestinians across the West Bank who also agree on the same. A percentage of 80% of the respondents within the Green Line agreed that the Israeli occupation has

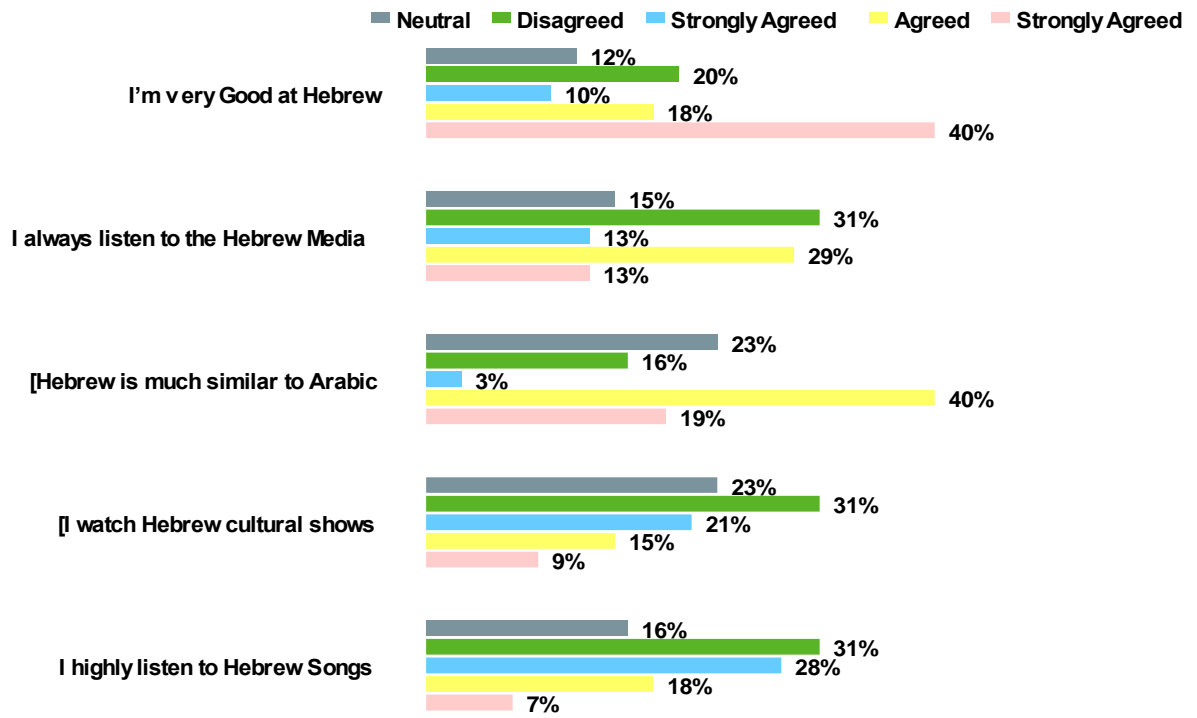
contributed to increasing their freedom of expression, compared to 44% of the respondents across the West Bank who agreed on the same. A rate of 98% of the respondents within the Green Line agreed that the Israeli occupation is targeting the Palestinian youth way of thinking by offering them with tempting opportunities for a better life compared to 87% of the respondents across the West Bank who also agreed on this.

#### **4.2.1.4 Fourth Variable: Language**

Five sub-questions fall under this variable. These questions are mainly focused on the Israeli occupation impact on language. The Israeli occupation is using Hebrew language as the main and official language inside the occupied territories.

The graph shows the questions of this variable. The respondents' answers came as the following:

- 58% answered very good at Hebrew, 30% answered poor at Hebrew, and 12% answered neutral
- 44% answered that they do not always listen to the media in Hebrew, while 42% do listen to the media in Hebrew
- 59% answered that Hebrew is similar to Arabic
- 24% answered that they watch cultural shows in Hebrew
- 25% answered that they listen to Hebrew songs



**Graph 4.5: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on language**

**Table 4.10: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on Language (in terms of Gender/Age)**

		Gender		Age			
		Female	Male	Lower than 25 years	Above 55 years	Between 26 - 40	Between 41 - 55
<b>I'm very Good at Hebrew</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	6%	16%	7%	0%	14%	27%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	11%	28%	5%	0%	36%	18%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	9%	11%	2%	0%	20%	0%
	<b>Agreed</b>	11%	23%	7%	100%	20%	9%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	64%	21%	79%	0%	10%	45%
<b>I always listen to the Media in Hebrew</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	17%	13%	14%	40%	12%	18%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	28%	33%	21%	0%	40%	36%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	9%	16%	7%	20%	20%	0%
	<b>Agreed</b>	34%	25%	38%	40%	22%	18%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	13%	13%	19%	0%	6%	27%
<b>Hebrew is much similar to Arabic</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	17%	28%	12%	20%	34%	18%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	13%	18%	12%	20%	20%	9%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	4%	2%	2%	0%	4%	0%
	<b>Agreed</b>	40%	39%	40%	60%	34%	55%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	26%	13%	33%	0%	8%	18%
<b>I watch cultural shows in Hebrew</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	23%	23%	26%	20%	16%	45%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	30%	33%	21%	60%	40%	18%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	19%	23%	14%	0%	30%	18%
	<b>Agreed</b>	19%	11%	24%	20%	10%	0%

	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	9%	10%	14%	0%	4%	18%
<b>I highly listen to Hebrew Songs</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	17%	15%	26%	0%	12%	0%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	26%	36%	17%	40%	34%	73%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	23%	31%	10%	40%	42%	27%
	<b>Agreed</b>	28%	10%	33%	20%	8%	0%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	6%	8%	14%	0%	4%	0%

Table 4.10 shows that the male participants by 75% are more capable of speaking Hebrew rather than females by 45%. The respondents aged less 25 years old along with those aged above 55 years old unanimously have answered that they speak Hebrew efficiently. The table also shows that respondents below 25 years old are the ones who listen the most to Hebrew songs.

**Table 4.11: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on Language (in Terms of Education/Work)**

		Education					Work			
		High School	BA	Diploma	Other	MA	Merchant	Worker	Other	Employee
<b>I'm very Good at Hebrew</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	0%	10%	33%	0%	22%	50%	29%	3%	15%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	0%	19%	0%	50%	28%	0%	0%	8%	31%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	0%	9%	0%	0%	22%	0%	0%	5%	15%
	<b>Agreed</b>	100%	16%	67%	0%	11%	0%	43%	11%	19%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	0%	47%	0%	50%	17%	50%	29%	73%	21%
<b>I always listen to the Media in Hebrew</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	50%	15%	0%	0%	17%	0%	14%	11%	18%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	0%	28%	33%	25%	44%	50%	29%	24%	34%

	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	0%	12%	33%	0%	17%	0%	29%	11%	13%
	<b>Agreed</b>	50%	30%	33%	25%	22%	0%	14%	35%	27%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	0%	15%	0%	50%	0%	50%	14%	19%	8%
<b>Hebrew is much similar to Arabic</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	0%	19%	0%	0%	56%	0%	14%	8%	34%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	0%	16%	33%	25%	11%	50%	14%	16%	15%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	0%	2%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	3%	3%
	<b>Agreed</b>	100%	38%	67%	75%	28%	50%	29%	49%	35%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	0%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	43%	24%	13%
<b>I watch cultural shows in Hebrew</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	0%	21%	33%	0%	39%	0%	43%	24%	21%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	50%	33%	33%	25%	22%	50%	29%	22%	37%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	0%	19%	33%	25%	33%	0%	14%	19%	24%
	<b>Agreed</b>	50%	17%	0%	0%	6%	0%	14%	22%	11%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	0%	10%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	14%	6%
<b>I highly listen to Hebrew Songs</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	0%	16%	0%	0%	22%	50%	14%	14%	16%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	0%	28%	67%	75%	33%	50%	29%	30%	32%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	50%	25%	33%	25%	39%	0%	14%	19%	35%
	<b>Agreed</b>	50%	21%	0%	0%	6%	0%	29%	30%	10%

Table 4.12: The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on Language (in Terms of Area)

		Area		
		Green Line	West Bank	Other
<b>I'm very Good at Hebrew</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	2%	19%	17%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	0%	35%	33%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	0%	15%	25%
	<b>Agreed</b>	11%	21%	25%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	86%	10%	0%
<b>I always listen to the Media in Hebrew</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	14%	15%	17%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	20%	37%	42%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	5%	15%	33%
	<b>Agreed</b>	39%	25%	8%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	23%	8%	0%
<b>Hebrew is much similar to Arabic</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	9%	31%	42%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	9%	17%	33%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	0%	4%	8%
	<b>Agreed</b>	48%	38%	17%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	34%	10%	0%
<b>I watch cultural shows in Hebrew</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	27%	21%	17%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	16%	42%	42%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	14%	25%	33%
	<b>Agreed</b>	25%	8%	8%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	18%	4%	0%
<b>I highly listen to Hebrew Songs</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	23%	10%	17%
	<b>Disagreed</b>	18%	42%	33%
	<b>Strongly Disagreed</b>	14%	37%	42%
	<b>Agreed</b>	32%	8%	8%
	<b>Strongly Agreed</b>	14%	4%	0%

Table 4.12 shows that the level of knowing Hebrew language is far even. About 97% of the Palestinians within the Green Line master Hebrew compared to 31% in the West Bank. Around 82% of the Palestinians within the Green Line find Hebrew close

and similar to Arabic compared to 48% across the West Bank. Moreover, Hebrew cultural shows are more watched by the Palestinians within the Green Line rather than those across the West Bank (at 43% and 12% respectively). In terms of media, Palestinians within the Green Line listen to the media in Hebrew more than those across the West Bank (62% and 33% respectively). Similarly, songs in Hebrew are heard by Palestinians within the Green Line more than those across the West Bank (46% and 12% respectively)

### **4.3 Data Explanation:**

#### **4.3.1 The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Identity:**

Both Palestinians (across the West Bank and within the Green Line) became more attached and loyal to their Palestinian identity, given it is considered one of the main elements by which they prove that they are the legitimate people of this land. Around 94% of the respondents agreed to this which could be considered a high percentage. More specifically, the respondents between 41-55 years old strongly agreed to this. It is worth to mention that this age group has lived the longest under the Israeli occupation and thus witnessed different Israeli political difficulties and changes. In terms of the Palestinians within the Green Line, and since they live side by side with the Israelis on a daily basis, they feel alienated even though they live on their own lands, but the majority of the population therein are Israelis. The Palestinian respondents within the Green Line agreed to this by 91% where only 59% of the Palestinian respondents across the West Bank agreed to this. Furthermore, the Palestinian youth are more affected especially those aged below 25 years old. This is why Palestinians within the Green Line highly agreed that they face racial discrimination within the occupied territories,

compared to 71% of the Palestinians across the West Bank who agreed to this. Even though both Palestinians (across the West Bank and within the Green Line) are currently living in two different locations under different circumstances, they unanimously agreed at a high percentage that the Israeli occupation led to creating this kind of feeling among them. Despite the fact that Palestinians across West Bank are less affected by the previous factor, yet they are more affected by the Israeli occupation in terms of their Arab identity. Their Arabic identity appeared to be fragile and shaky as illustrated in the explanatory tables. The percentage of agreement to this point as shown amounted to 55% by the Palestinians within the Green Line. This could be interpreted in reference to the current political situation were some of the Arab Countries normalized with Israel in addition to other political facilities. The new political situation created a strong feeling of disappointment among Palestinians in West Bank and directly affected this among them.

In response to the thesis questions in terms of the impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian identity, the Israeli occupation impacted more negatively on the Palestinian within the Green Line in this regard, as they feel alienated while living in their own and legitimate territories. These practices together with the discrimination against the Palestinians within the Green Line have aggravated the negative impacts among the Palestinians within the Green Line. Clearly the level of the impact is different in the West Bank since the percentages varied to the Palestinians in West Bank, what can't be denied at this point and in accordance to the results from the previous analysis, the Israeli occupation has affected the Palestinians negatively even if its indirect; were they felt that they are no more attached to their Arab Identity. Accordingly, Palestinians within the Green Line are more affected by the Israeli

occupation in terms of the Palestinian Identity. But even though that the Israeli occupation has left the concept of their identity, the Israeli occupation, for both Palestinians (across the West Bank and within the Green Line) created a stronger feeling among them to become more attached to their identity.

#### **4.3.2 The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Heritage:**

According to the previous explanatory analysis, some of the Palestinian respondents agreed while others disagreed that the Israeli occupation has obliterated the Palestinian heritage. The total percentage of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed amounted to 45% compared to 51% who agreed, from both areas (West Bank and Green Line). This occupation has truly affected the Palestinian heritage by 62% answered by the Palestinians across the West Bank who agreed to this, more specifically in terms of age variable, the Palestinians aged 55 years and above. This could be explained by the fact that in some areas among the Palestinian communities, heritage is somehow absent, whether if it is being stolen directly by the Israeli occupation or due to the introduced modern habits. There is a high percentage of agreement by 74% of the Palestinians who agreed that the Israeli occupation has introduced new values at the level of customs and traditions. This percentage is broken down as 62% across the West Bank and 43% within the Green Line. It is worth mentioning that respondents aged above 55 years old have agreed that the Palestinian society witnessed such kind of changes. However, heritage might become blurry at some points. This contradictory situation within the Green Line, more specifically, revealed another stand point that Palestinians within the Green Line are becoming more aware of their heritage, which represents one of the main links to their legitimate existence in the occupied territories. Both Palestinians

(across the West Bank and within the Green Line) highly agreed that Palestinians events and celebrations strongly contribute to reviving the Palestinian heritage, given it is one of the most important cultural components within the Palestinian culture.

About 75% of the total respondents agreed that the Israeli occupation has truly adapted the Palestinian heritage, while 82% of the respondents within the Green Line agreed and strongly agreed that the Israeli occupation has built its own culture from the Palestinian's.

In response to the thesis questions in terms of the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian heritage, about 51% of the respondents approved that the Israeli occupation has obliterated the components of their heritage. The impact aggravated even more in terms of the new cultural values introduced to the society. This situation resulted in instability among the Palestinians themselves struggling to preserve and protect their own values and costumes threatened by the Israeli occupation. Palestinians within the Green Line need to pay extra efforts in order not to allow the new values and customs become more dominant in the society. One different thing in this variable is that Palestinians in West Bank are more aware of the impact of the Israeli occupation on their heritage. Despite the discrepancy, the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian heritage unified both Palestinians (across the West Bank and within the Green Line) to develop a unified position towards the threats against their culture and move jointly towards protecting and preserving it through the revival events.

#### **4.3.3 The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian Behavior:**

The Israeli occupation that lasted for more than 70 years now on the Palestinian territories came from European and Western countries. This resulted in introducing the

Western culture into the Palestinian community gradually. The majority of the respondents (within the Green Line and across the West Bank) have either agreed or strongly agreed to this. The majority that agreed ages between (25-40) years old or below 25 years old. On the other hand, the respondents who aged between 41-55 years old strongly disagreed to this. The Palestinian respondents across the West Bank and within the Green line have agreed that the Israeli occupation is targeting the Palestinian youth by offering tempting opportunities for a better life. The percentages of respondents agreeing to this are almost similar. In terms of the Israeli laws, the Palestinian respondents within the Green Line agreed that the Israeli laws applied to them only when they are within the Green Line, given the area is completely governed by Israel. In this regard, the Palestinian respondents are less governed by the Israeli laws and rules across the Palestinian Authority territories. The changes to the behavior in one side and not in the other reflect some sort of superiority of one over the other which will create a sense of discrimination among the Palestinians themselves. According to the previous analysis, the commitment of Palestinians within the Green Line to the Israeli laws made them realize that the Israeli occupation indeed contributed to increasing the freedom of expression. Thus, they are obliged to follow the Israeli laws regardless of the difficulties and circumstances imposed by the Israeli occupation against them.

In response to the thesis question in terms of the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian behavior, there is a high and tangible impact. According to the results, the vast majority of the Palestinians, specifically within the Green Line, agreed that Israel has introduced new values and costumes into the Palestinian local communities which will result in clashes and constant conflict between the inherent values and the

new dominant values and costumes introduced by the Israelis. As the results showed that 88% of the respondents follow the Israeli laws only within the occupied territories, while they do not follow the Israeli laws in the Palestinian Authority territories. This situation resulted in a superior-inferior relationship among the Palestinians themselves while they should be a single unit facing the same occupation. The Israeli impact in reference to this component is greater within the Green Line compared to the impact in the West Bank, But this does not undo the fact that even across the West bank, the Palestinians are also affected in terms of their behavior by the Israeli occupation, as 84% of the Palestinians across the West Bank confirmed that the occupation has introduced new values to the Palestinian community. Therefore, it could be said that the Green Line territories are more impacted by the Israeli occupation in terms of their behavior and customs.

#### **4.3.4 The Impact of the Israeli Occupation on Language:**

For the language component, the vast majority of the respondents answered that they are good at Hebrew and they use the language more frequently in the different aspects of life, especially for the Palestinians within the Green Line. As they also strongly agreed that Arabic and Hebrew are similar.

There are two high percentages of knowing the Hebrew language concentrated among two age groups; those below 25 years old and those above 55 years old. The first age group is more involved among the Israeli community as it is in contact with Israelis almost on a daily basis and in different areas of life. On the other hand, the second age group (those above 55), is the group that witnessed the coming of the Israeli occupation at early stages. The second group has lived under the Israeli occupation the longest

compared to the other age groups. Therefore, learning and speaking Hebrew for this age group was inevitable to continue their life under the new circumstances. As for the West Bank, Hebrew is not the official language there, Arabic is, with different dialects. The low percentage of knowing and speaking Hebrew among Palestinians across the West Bank is also attributed to the fact that Hebrew is not included within the Palestinian curriculum or the educational system. Thus, learning Hebrew across the West Bank is solely optional depending on the individual's preference.

In response to the thesis questions in terms of the impact of the Israeli occupation on language, the level of impact is high at 97% within the Green Line as they can speak Hebrew. This situation within the Green Line led the Palestinians there to use the Hebrew language more often than Arabic. The results showed that mostly around 45% of the Palestinians within the Green Line tend to listen to Hebrew songs and watch Hebrew cultural shows most of the time. With time, this will result in weakening the Arabic language or make it forgotten for the next generations. In the West Bank, the impact of the Israeli occupation on language is much less compared to the Green Line. Around 31% and 33% of the respondents across the West Bank know how to use Hebrew and listen to the media in Hebrew. However, they do not use the Hebrew language most of the time and they recognize the similarity between Arabic and Hebrew. About 48% of the Palestinians across the West Bank agreed to this. Accordingly, the Green Line territories are more affected by the Israeli occupation in terms of Hebrew language. Based on the previous analysis and with regards to the theory of the thesis, the impact of the Israeli occupation in terms of language is much greater among the youth age group with minor effect on other age groups.

With reference to the hypothesis of the thesis, it is noticed from the results herein that the impact of the Israeli occupation is greatest among the young generation. According to the results, most of the old generations disagreed with the fact the Israeli occupation has introduced new values and customs into the Palestinian community. This rejection creates a kind of defense to the original components of the Palestinians culture. This does not underestimate the significance of this age group or point fingers thereat for the lack of awareness to the surroundings. It is important to mention that this age group, in particular, is the most present among the communities where there is the need to work and interact with the Israelis on a daily basis. These interaction dose not cancel out the fact this age group could be influenced by the Israelis.

This thesis focused on four cultural components subject to the impact of the Israeli occupation. The results of the analysis showed that there is indeed impact of the Israeli occupation on these four cultural components. Based on the analysis of the previous results, it is noticeable that identity and behavior are the most affected cultural components by the Israeli occupation. The results showed that the vast majority of the Palestinians, particularly those within the Green Line, are directly affected by the practices of the Israeli occupation.

#### **4.3.5 Statistical Analysis and Related Studies**

The findings are built based on the statistical analysis and this means that the related studies and the analysis are leading to the same path. Combining both the statistical analysis with the related studies mentioned in chapter two, we could relate to some correspondents that came cross. Starting from the high importance of the cultural components in the life of Palestinians, since they stand as the line of defense against the

Israeli occupation threats. As the Israeli occupation introduced new culture and new values to the Palestinian society, this led to a change of values, especially for the younger generation as they worked hardly on this point. But even though they changed some values and some parts of the local culture, yet the identity still plays an important role to the Palestinians residing within the Green line and West Bank too. Palestinians hold on tight to their Palestinian identity as well as to the Palestinian traditions, which always exist in every single event to prevent these traditions from being stolen by the Israelis. Language here plays a very important role. The first one is that the Palestinians kept in their mind the importance of learning a language the whole world speaks to transfer the Palestinian issue to the whole world. So here we can see that most of the Palestinians can speak English, and the second role of language is learning Hebrew. Most of the Green line Palestinians speak Hebrew fluently due to their daily interaction with Israelis ,and some of West Bank Palestinians speak Hebrew too due to their work natures. This is to keep in mind that they need to speak Hebrew language to fight for their rights first, and second is to understand what's going on within the occupied lands. Speaking the enemy's language for the Palestinians here is considered as strength and a bonus credit for them. In all cases, Palestinians are trying hardly to save their lands, traditions, safeguard their identity regardless to the different political circumstances happening around them, such as normalization with the Israeli occupation from some of the Arab countries.

## **4.4 Telephone Interviews**

### **4.4.1 Introduction:**

This part covers the second tool used by the researcher to answer the questions raised in the thesis. Three telephone interviews were conducted with three experts specialized in different areas. The aim of these interviews was to examine the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian cultural components and to further analyze and elaborate on such impact in response to the questions of the thesis. These telephone interviews covered three dimensions: political, economic and cultural to examine the impact of the Israeli occupation on the cultural components. The researcher used a semi-structured form in the interviews. In other words, basically one question was asked: What is the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian cultural components? In addition to some sub-questions asked throughout the interviews based in the area of specialization of each of the three experts being interviewed. These telephone interviews were conducted between 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2020 and 10<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2021. The first interview was dedicated to cover the cultural/historical aspect of the Israeli impact. It was conducted with Dr. Abdalraheem Ghanem, a Member of the Teaching Staff at Alquds Open University and a Specialist in Historical Studies. The second telephone interview covered the economic aspect of the Israeli impact. It was conducted with Mr. Said Albaransy, the Owner and Chief Executive of BCI Group Companies. In terms of the third interview, it covered the political aspect of the Israeli impact. It was conducted with Dr. Ahmad Jameel Azem, the Assistant Professor of International Relations at Birzeit University and a Member of the Palestinian Central Council. The results of the interviews came close and similar to the results obtained from the analysis of the data collected in the previous section. Moreover, the interviews added further results to those

collected in the previous part in terms of the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian cultural components. The presentation below is dedicated to present the details of the interviews and then the analysis of these interviews in response to the questions raised in the thesis. It then concludes with discussion in reference to the thesis main questions and hypotheses.

#### **4.4.2 Interview Presentation:**

##### **4.4.2.1 Interview 1:**

This interview was conducted with Dr. Abdalraheem Ghanem, a Member of the Teaching Staff at Alquds Open University and a Specialist in Historical Studies. It was conducted on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2021 through the telephone. The researcher briefed the cultural perspectives of the Israeli impact on the Palestinian cultural components. It lasted for thirty minutes during which the interviewee elaborated on the current cultural situation in light of the existence of the Israeli occupation both in West Bank and within the Green Line. He shared some suggestions on how to strengthen the cultural components in both the West Bank and within the Green Line. He said:

“Culture in its practical definition went through several changes which were attributed to Globalization that mainly affected the Palestinian culture, especially among the young generations, not the older generations. If we divide generations by age groups, we will find that the culture of individuals aged 15 years old is completely different from that of those aged above 25 years old. From here, we can definitely say that culture differs from one generation to another due to various reasons. One of the basic reasons that helped in the change of the culture is the exposure to the outer world alongside with social media. Consequently, culture is no more acquired by families, but

rather from social media. This situation affected the people who are aged up to 15 years old, whereas this percentage lessened to the people who are aged up to 25 years old regardless to the place they live in.

Their connection to their culture is noticed by how they strive to preserve the cultural components in their daily life. For instance, the Folklore and heritage, and the Kofieh or embroidery which are considered visible representations of the Palestinian cultural components. This is seen in public events and weddings where women usually wear the Palestinian Folklore dress considering it a primary component in the Palestinian culture. Moreover, it is important in this regard not to forget the role of the Palestinian architecture in reviving the Palestinian culture. Palestinians across the West Bank and within the Green Line as well as those in Gaza strip are reusing the ancient Palestinian architecture style in the construction of their houses. This emphasizes the awareness of Palestinians about the components of their own culture. Moreover, the young Palestinians who are above 20 years old are highly interested in getting involved in Palestinian cultural events and traditions such as the folklore dancing (Dabkah) and singing. Women are also involved much more in learning and working as well in the cultural areas. For instance, a lot of women are insisted in learning and teaching embroidery art all over the country. Therefore, we cannot but notice that cultural components are still present in the daily lives of Palestinians, especially the old generations. The challenge to preserving our cultural heritage is faced within the young generation, who became more attached to the modern habits and ways of living which has customized their absorption of the culture around them. This led to weakening their connection to the family culture and the Palestinian culture in general which is considered to be the first place where culture has to be adapted. This is the problem and

its causes. However, lately we started to notice that there is a stronger tendency among the youth to protect their heritage, particularly the religious heritage notwithstanding their political or cultural backgrounds. Therefore, in every attack or threat against our cultural components, the youth is strongly motivated to defend and protect the heritage. There are two forms for preserving the Palestinians cultural heritage. First, documenting the heritage through words, images, and instruments. Second, to transfer this heritage from grandfathers to the grandsons, this is very essential to document the Palestinian stories from one generation to another. Moreover, older family members need to explain to the younger generations what is true and what is not in our heritage and what came from outside cultures whether in terms of art, songs and traditional customs. This is about our own identity that we must keep and preserve in our daily life.

To keep the true image of the Palestinian history and culture in the minds of Palestinians, several books documenting the Palestinian heritage were published. Nowadays, we can take advantage of social media to emphasize our folklore and heritage, as well as our culture with its various components. For instance, in the form of films produced and shared on YouTube. It is also important to use our local dialects and accents when we speak with one another. We must pay attention not to highly use or depend on foreign languages such as English or French as a sign of prestige or extra skill. We should also use only the Arabic names of everything around us as this is an essential part in preserving not only our Palestinian identity, but also our Arabic identity.

#### 4.4.2.2 Interview 2:

This interview was conducted with Mr. Said Albaransy, the Owner and Chief Executive of BCI Group Companies. It was conducted on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. The researcher briefed the economic perspective of the Israeli impact on the cultural components. The interview lasted for twenty eight minutes in which the interviewee elaborated on the main question and how the economic situation of the Palestinians is directly affected by the Israeli occupation which resulted in imposing cultural conditions both in the West Bank and within the Green Line. He also presented some suggestions to encourage the Palestinians to reflect more accurate image of their culture. His elaboration came as follows:

“Let’s just recap what happened after the 1948 War, it was a complete occupation of the Palestinian territories in which the vast majority of the Palestinians were forced to leave their lands, while a small minority managed to stay. After that, Israel imposed the military rule until 1967. This has negatively and drastically affected the Palestinian community within the occupied territories. The Israeli occupation back then aimed deliberately at damaging the entire Palestinian infrastructure which basically consisted of small to medium industries and the agricultural sectors which were good according to the possibilities and resources available back then, including but not limited to: Jaffa oranges imported to several countries. On the other hand, the cultural life in Palestine back then used to be one of the best in the region. In Palestine, especially in Acre and Haifa, there has been a wide spread of culture within the local community; where culture flourished in various fields. Lots of newspapers and magazines were being published and many singers have visited Jaffa to perform. However, after the 1948 War, things got worse. The most majority of the poets, writers and intellectuals were

displaced. Even peasants were also affected by the occupation as their lands were confiscated and they were prohibited to access any. The Israeli occupation is actually a strange occupation of its kind. It destroyed the entire social and cultural aspects of the Palestinian community within the Green Line. The difficult situations the Palestinians within the occupied territories faced as they were regarded as a “Minority” forced many of the educated people to work as construction workers due to the lack of job opportunities. Nonetheless, after many years, the Palestinian communities within the Green Line started to observe small changes within the social structure, at the educational level, to be more particular. The political elites within the occupied territories, such as the communist party, strived hard to revive the Palestinian Identity within the Green Line. As a result, many newspapers and magazines started to be published in this regard, such as Aletihad Newspaper, which belonged to the communist Party. After that, the Palestinians started to feel more alive within the occupied territories. The educational movement has flourished, and the Palestinian families started to send their children to study abroad, especially in the Soviet Union, aided by educational scholars from the communist party.

This movement helped the Palestinians regain their nationality in a way or another; including their own language and culture not to mention the habits and customs. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the circumstances of life between the two different communities required a kind of communication and interaction, which resulted in significant impacts on the Palestinians themselves rather than the Jews that is already divided (Western Jews and Eastern Jews). Consequently, we started to notice the impact on the cultural sphere among the Palestinian communities within the Green Line. But the cultural change or impact on the Palestinians is marginal rather than in the core of

the cultural components, since the impact is directly seen among the young generations in their daily life circumstances. The impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinians resulted in a stronger connection to their being and their identity as well. For instance, education of Palestinians within the Green Line advanced and the number of the Palestinians enrolled to the Israeli educational institutions increased by 20% of the total number of students. With regards to the Palestinian territories occupied after the 1967 War, the situation is different. They created another state regarded as a second class community under the Israeli occupation of Palestine, with a low level of services provided to the Palestinians and administrative communication with Jordan. Therefore, and on one hand, the situation for Palestinians got more complicated under the Israeli occupation. From another hand, the Palestinians were forced to manage their life by themselves. This kind of occupation or “colonialism” has never existed before. If any group of people is occupied, it is the responsibility of the occupier to provide the people with the necessary services. Hence, all of these consequences created the existing situation in Palestine. In terms of the cultural impact of the Israeli occupation on the territories of 1967, it was less severe compared to the Green Line. Since each side (the Israelis and the Palestinians) are living in different areas except for minor communication with the Israeli citizens regarding some services and small industries. The major communication between Palestinians and the Israelis was due to military attacks against the people living there. From my point of view, the Israeli occupation not only impacted the Palestinians culturally, but also prevented the opportunity for the Palestinians to grow and develop compared to the neighboring Arab countries.

The Israeli occupation is mainly a political, economic, cultural and scientific that built barrier before the Palestinians controlling all life aspects. The young generation

has adapted to some of the Israeli behaviors like singing and listening to Hebrew songs on a daily basis. Twenty years ago, this was not a thing; this is why I think the impact is again marginal. From my point of view, I believe that both leaders and individuals need to take action to preserve the Palestinian culture and pass it as is to the coming generations. Palestinians should start taking actions to improve the existing situations, given that national speeches will no longer work. It is the responsibility of the politicians and leaders who are in charge of making crucial decisions which would enable them to make action plans for better situations. They have to set the priorities for the Palestinians. It is time for the Palestinians to build themselves as they did for the other Arab countries in the Past. If the Palestinians have the chance to do so, they will not hesitate. However, we still need more responsible political leadership that would develop more achievable strategic plans and goals. We have not to wait for what others can do for us. We must take action to become what we are supposed to be, and seek our legal rights known all over the world.

#### **4.4.2.3 Interview 3:**

This interview was conducted with Dr. Ahmad Jameel Azem, an Assistant Professor of International Relations at Birzeit University and a Member of the Palestinian Central Council. It was conducted on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020, and it lasted for 10 minutes. The researcher mainly asked about the Israeli impact on the Palestinian cultural components in terms of the political situation across the West Bank and within the Green Line, in addition to some sub-questions to elaborate on the cultural situation in terms of the political aspect in Palestine and what possible recommendations could be suggested to

strengthen and enhance the cultural fabric across Palestine. The interviewee elaborates as the following:

“The division within Palestine especially in the West Bank is political, and it could be attributed to several factors that can be discussed later. The first factor is media changes. Nowadays, we do not have a public and unified media platform that represents all Palestinians. Back to the 80s, each Palestinian faction had its own media platform that was publishing to the entire world. In Palestine as well, we used to have one to two broadcast centers. But now, each city, village and refugee camp has its own media platform. This diversity increased with the other social media platforms. This situation led to the lack of public media not only in Palestine, but all over the world as well. Hence, the cultural and national tools (components) are not found anymore. Even if we have some of these tools, we need a lot of effort to invest in such. Currently, the situation is completely different; from a political perspective, each area in Palestine has its own culture; the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the refugee camps all over the world. Consequently, the PLO Department of Culture played a major role in devoting more attention and importance to the Palestinians’ association around the world. Therefore, we could say that the political division resulted in the absence of cultural foundations representing all Palestinians. Furthermore, modern media strengthened and encouraged the political division in Palestine. All of these factors besides the Israeli occupation impacted the Palestinian culture. The modern media activities contributed in making each city, village or refugee camp has its own and separate culture that is totally separated from the collective one. Dr. Azem recommended strengthening culture by the individuals. He said that individuals have to keep up with the changes and circumstances around them. For instance, we are living in the era of huge data and

digitalization and the party that has the data has the power. It is important for the Palestinian individuals to quickly adapt to these circumstances and changes and preserve their cultural products through the modern tools. In the Western World for instance, the printing industry is rarely found and mostly it is upon demand. Individuals have to do whatever that makes them more significant. The focus should not only be on the university education or the degrees, but also on what an individual is basically learning. In other words, individuals need to learn how they perceive university. Therefore, instead of considering the university as a place to get a degree only, it should be considered as a place to learn and become more educated about the subject matter. This would solve many problems. We need to rethink about the role of education; culture and communication needed to fill the cultural gap.

#### **4.4.3 Analysis of Interviews:**

This part is dedicated to address the crosscuttings in the analysis of the interviews in response to the questions of the thesis.

The first interview covered the cultural interpretation of the Israeli impact on the Palestinian cultural components. It concluded that the Israeli occupation has negatively affected the younger generations the most by misleading them away from their Palestinian culture. Although the impact is mostly seen on the behaviors of the Palestinians, this made the Palestinians to be more attached to their cultural heritage. In other words, the Israeli occupation led the Palestinians to become more attached to their heritage and Folklore components as a means of defending themselves against the Israelis. In reference to the main hypothesis, the Israeli occupation definitely impacted the (youth) the most given it is less aware of the existing circumstances and

surroundings. The Israeli occupation aimed at destroying the most important cultural components to the Palestinians. Therefore, the level of the Israeli occupation impact on the cultural components is visible and tangible.

The second interview covered the economic interpretation of the Israeli impact on the Palestinian cultural components. It concluded that the Israeli occupation has negatively impacted the Palestinians both across the West Bank and within the Green Line, but with significant emphasis on Palestinians within the Green Line. The Palestinians there live as minorities even though they are living in their own occupied territories. This resulted in the absence of the Palestinian cultural components in so many forms. Palestinians who live within the Green line became forced to contact with the Israelis on a daily basis. Thus, they had to witness the impact of this contact on their culture in two aspects mainly: language, customs and behavior. Even indirectly, Palestinians became affected by the Israeli occupation in their ways of living. Although this impact is tangible and more evident among the Palestinians in both areas, it contributed in making the Palestinians more aware of the negative Israeli practices which encouraged towards raising their awareness on how to preserve their cultural components.

The third and last interview covered the political interpretation of the Israeli impact on the Palestinian cultural components. It concluded that there is a strong emphasis on the young generation where the cultural impacts are most evident especially across the West Bank. The Israeli occupation caused many damages within the social fabric. This interview emphasized and supported the analysis of the previous part that the youth (between 20 - 25 years old) is the most affected group. The negative impact of the Israeli occupation on the young generation directly touched their way of

thinking and how they behave. Hence, this interview concluded that the most affected cultural component from a political perspective is the behavior of the young generation.

In general, the interviews showed how the Israeli occupation attempts, in every possible way, to weaken the Palestinian cultural fabric, focusing mainly on the youth by targeting their way of thinking and the way they live, given it is a sensitive group to exploit and control so as to impose impacts on the culture. However, and despite the fact the Israeli occupation truly affected the Palestinian culture in many ways, there is no doubt that this situation raised the cultural awareness of the Palestinians which urged them to be attached to their own culture.

## **Chapter Five**

### **Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations**

#### **5.1 Introduction:**

This chapter reviews the summary, conclusion, and recommendations of the thesis that cleared the impact of the Israeli occupation on some of the Palestinians cultural components in West Bank and within the Green Line.

The thesis was conducted across the West Bank and within the Green Line. The respondents were the Palestinian citizens from different backgrounds and demographic variables.

#### **5.2 Summary of Findings:**

The findings are summarized based on the statement of the problem discussed in Chapter 1. Here are the major findings of the thesis:

- It became evident that the younger generations are becoming the most affected by the Israelis due to their daily interactions with the Israelis beside the influence of the western culture brought by the Israelis to the country. In addition, social media influence and changing the structure by building intellectual barriers between past and present which may cause huge differences in the future.
- The Palestinians residing within the Green Line and across the West Bank became more aware of the cultural traditions. They practice these traditions in most of their events and they pass such from one generation to another to ensure they remain alive in the minds of all Palestinians, and to show the entire world the “indigenous” Palestinian traditions and culture.

- The older generations reject the fact that the Israeli occupation has introduced new values and customs to the local communities, which in turn played a major role as a defense to the original Palestinian cultural components.
- Identity and behavior are the most affected components by the Israeli occupation as agreed unanimously by the vast majority of the respondents.
- As shown in the results of the previous chapter, there is an intentional Israeli attempts to steal and obliterate the Palestinian heritage and make it seem like it is their own. This contributed to raising the awareness of Palestinians residing in both, the West Bank and within the Green Line towards the importance of preserving and defending their cultural heritage.
- The Israeli occupation has devastatingly impacted the Palestinian identity and their belongings in their ancestral lands. On one side, the Palestinians within the Green Line experience more racial discrimination by the Israelis, which resulted in making them feel alienation in their own territories. On the other side, the Palestinians across the West Bank are facing issues with their Arabic identity, where some of the Israeli practices and policies with the neighboring countries shook their belongings to their Arabic identity. Despite this complex situation in both sides, the Palestinians managed to become more aware of the significance and value of their indigenous identity which made them more attached thereto.
- The Israeli occupation has introduced new cultural values into the Palestinians local communities dervied from the western cultures. These new values are most tangible among the young Palestinians.

### **5.3 Findings and Related Studies:**

Comparing related studies and findings and upon the study's most affected parts which are the language, identity and heritage, here is the researcher's point of view for the bonding between them. The Israeli occupation tried and still trying hardly to affect the younger generations. First, they introduced the western culture and inserted it through direct and indirect ways to make this generation different from the older ones who faced the Nakba directly. They used schools as the main approach to affect the minds of Palestinians by trying to merge the youngsters between each other's from the both sides. This led the Palestinians to a very important point which is that even though the Palestinians especially from the Green Line are forced to deal with the Israelis, yet it's very uncomfortable and hard to deal with them. This means that Palestinians are always in a situation of not accepting and they will never be until they got their lands back. Even though a very good percentage of Palestinians are forced to learn Hebrew because they need to use it in their daily life and dealing with Israelis even in work / society/ checkpoints, they need to know the other side language to understand their mindset. This led the Palestinians to learn more languages to transfer the Palestinian issue to the world fighting for their cause in a language the whole world understands, and to comprehend what's going inside the Israelis mind. Speaking about a very important part which is the traditions, the younger generation and all Palestinians as well are trying hardly to keep practicing the traditions and keep them alive because these traditions are being stolen by the Israelis to create themselves traditions.

#### **5.4 Recommendations:**

Below are the most important recommendations of the thesis based on the analysis of the collected data:

- Recommendation to question number four in the thesis which stated the area that was more influenced by the Israeli occupation which revealed that the Green Line turned out to be more affected culturally by the Israeli occupation. Here we should consider the gap between Palestinians within the Green Line and those across the West Bank created by the occupation that is still seeking to increase this gap, special attention should be given to raising awareness on this gap to combine both sides in more activities and to delete the wrongful image created between both sides. Both sides have to move and act together because their Cause is one.
- Recommendation to question number three in the thesis, which explained the most affected culture element due to the Israeli occupation that revealed that Identity, language and behavior are top affected elements by the Israelis. Here we should draw attention there should be Israeli-related educational material and Hebrew language courses within the Palestinian curriculum among schools, especially in the West Bank to raise awareness and knowledge on the practices of the Israeli occupation against their culture, and to make the young generations more capable of defending the Palestinian cause.
- Recommendation to question number two in the thesis that stated the negative impact on the cultural components which stated that young generations are becoming more influenced by the Israeli culture, especially within the Green Line area, there has to be a (historical Palestinian educational material) targeting all generations in schools, universities and educational clubs. Such material must include all Palestinian aspects

(Historical, cultural, demographical and political...etc.). Also The Palestinian Authority should make more efforts in offering job opportunities to the young generations within the West Bank so they will not be tempted by the well-paid jobs within the Green Line. So Palestinian would give up on the idea that the Israeli occupation is targeting the young generation by offering decent life opportunities within the occupied lands.

- Recommendation to question number one which stated the level of the Israeli impact on the Palestinians both in West Bank and within the Green line. Results have turned out to be that Israeli occupation has left its impact on both areas within the four cultural components as well. Here we should refer to the importance of the political interference to fix the current situation. Palestinian leaders and politician should take the lead in this part and raise the international awareness to this situation, as they should help the Palestinian individuals to prioritize their needs to improve the current situation.

### **5.5 Conclusion:**

As a result of analyzing the questions of the thesis and the data of the tables, and after reviewing the interviews of the thesis, the conclusion thereof is reached. In most aspects, the Palestinians within the Green Line showed greater percentage of impact due to their daily life interaction with the Israelis. On the other hand, the Palestinians across the West Bank are not affected as much as those within the Green Line. Palestinians also were affected but not given their limited interaction with the Israelis. This shall lead to several other findings starting with the impact on the Palestinian identity. Both Palestinians across the West Bank and within the Green Line face racial discrimination,

but with varying degrees depending on the daily interaction with the Israelis. However, this is affecting both positively as they are becoming more attached and loyal to their Palestinian identity given it is one of the main ways by which they prove themselves as the legitimate people of this land. It is worth noting here that when addressing the identity, the thesis intends to refer as well to the Arab identity as the Israelis are making every possible effort to destroy such in the minds of the Palestinians. The Israeli occupation is adversely affecting the Palestinians even if indirectly by making them feel less attached to their Arab Identity. Palestinians across the West Bank stated that the features of their Arab identity appear to be fragile and shaky. This could be explained with reference to the current political actions were some of the Arab Countries have signed on normalization agreements with the Israelis.

The thesis findings stated that the Israeli occupation has stolen, and is still stealing, in a clear and direct way, the Palestinian heritage. Israel took over every little detail of the Palestinian heritage. However, this contributed in making the Palestinian across the West Bank and within the Green Line devoted to revive their heritage by holding events and celebrations to remind the Israelis of what is rightfully theirs and to protect the Palestinian values and traditions, and ensure they are passed through to the coming generations. It must be noted that the greatest credit in this regard goes to the young generation who scored the highest percentage in saving the culture, heritage, and traditions, particularly, the female young generation. This is why the Israeli occupation is seeking very hard to affect the younger generation by influencing them through daily life interaction in different sectors and by trying to introduce a new adapted culture to their minds.

Behavior is another component being affected by the Israeli occupation as well. The results showed that the behavior of both Palestinians (in West Bank and in the Green line) is changing by time as a result of the interaction with the Israelis whom culture is derived from western origins. It should be noted here that Palestinians within the Green Line scored the higher percentage in this regard.

When the change in behavior is witnessed in one side mostly compared to the other, it reflects superiority of one over the other. Consequently, this will normally result in discrimination among the Palestinians themselves as they will definitely sense the superior-inferior relationship between those living across the West Bank and those within the Green Line. The Israeli Occupation is of course taking advantage of this by reinforcing this sense within the young generation who is the most affected.

For the last cultural component the language, the Israeli occupation has introduced its language to the Palestinians communities but more especially within the green line areas since they are the most who interact and communicate with the Israelis. With regard to the Palestinians in West Bank, a small percentage of people speak Hebrew but that is upon their preference not because the need to learn the language.

The thesis concluded that the technological progress over the past years has two contrary impacts on the Palestinian Cause. The first and the negative impact is that this technological advancement is used in the form of individual efforts rather than collective. In other words, many Palestinians are sending and reflecting different messages about the impact of the Israeli occupation thereon, when they must move as an integral unit and send a unified and clear message to the entire world to strengthen their stand point. The second and positive impact is that with this technological advancement, the Palestinian Cause will be documented in every social media platform

(YouTube, Instagram, Facebook) so the coming generations carry the mission, so the Palestinian Cause can never be neglected or forgotten.

Palestinians within the Green Line are playing an essential and major role in reaffirming the Palestinian culture given the damage caused thereto after the War. They are making every possible effort to preserve their heritage, culture and identity and defend the same. Since they are living side to side with the Israelis and interact with them on a daily basis, they are doing the most to prove to the Occupation that they have never forgotten their Cause and will never do.

#### **5.6 Prospected Studies:**

In regard to the impact on the cultural components caused by the Israeli occupation, this thesis suggested to shed the light more on the educational system of the Palestinians both in West Bank and within the Green Line if possible. The Palestinian curriculum should include material and subjects that cover the Palestinian culture from all its aspects so that students would stay in with their culture most of the time. If any following studies would be applied in this domain, it should focus on the role of the ministry of education on raising the cultural awareness among the Palestinian students for their original heritage and how they (Palestinian students) can participate too in protecting their cultural components from the Israeli occupation theft.

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## Appendices:

### Appendix 1

This appendix presents the list of referees who participated in auditing the thesis questionnaire before it was distributed in its last updated and approved form.

Name	Profession	Institution
Prof. Zeiad Ammin Barakat Ghanem	Professor of Educational Psychology	Alquds Open University
Dr. Abdalraheem Ghanem	DR of Historical studies	Alquds Open University
DR. Said Albishawy	Retired professor of social studies	Alquds Open University

## Appendix 2

This appendix presents the experts who participated in conducting the telephone interviews with. These experts were chosen from different fields each for his perspective; economic, cultural and political. As the following:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Profession</b>
DR. AbdAlraheem Ghanem	Alquds Open University	Member of the Teaching Staff at Alquds Open University and a Specialist in Historical Studies
DR. Amad Jameel Azem	Birzeit University	Assistant Professor of International Relations at Birzeit University and a Member of the Palestinian Central Council
Mr. Said Albaransy	BCI Group Company	Owner and Chief Executive of BCI Group Companies

### **Annex 1: Original Copy of the Questionnaire**

This form presents the final copy of the questionnaire that was edited and approved by three referees as mentioned in the previous appendix. Then it was distributed to the participants through social media means (Facebook). This questionnaire consisted of four sections, each section talked about one of the cultural components which the thesis studied. In each section as well specific questions have been asked to answer how the Israeli occupation affected this component.



الجامعة العربية الأمريكية  
كلية الدراسات العليا  
قسم العلوم الاجتماعية  
برنامج الأدب والتواصل بين الثقافات

تحية واحترام....

تقوم الباحثة بإعداد دراسة كمتطلب تكميلي لنيل درجة الماجستير من الجامعة العربية الأمريكية \_ فلسطين ، برنامج الأدب والتواصل بين الثقافات ، قسم العلوم الاجتماعية .

" أثر الإحتلال الإسرائيلي في المجالات الثقافية للفلسطينيين في الضفة الغربية والخط الأخضر "

يمثل هذا الاستبيان أحد الجوانب المهمة في البحث ، ويهدف إلى دراسة أثر الإحتلال الاسرائيلي في المجالات الثقافية للفلسطينيين ، أرجو التكرم والإجابة على الأسئلة المطروحة وتزويد الباحثة بأرقام القيمة من خلال وضع إشارة (x) على الإجابة التي ترونها ملائمة . كما تأمل الباحثة أن تغني إجاباتكم وترفع من المستوى البحث العلمي لهذا البحث.

يرجى العلم أن جميع الأسئلة المطروحة ضمن هذا الإستبيان لأغراض البحث العلمي وأن إجاباتكم ستكون محاطة بالسرية الكاملة والعناية العلمية الفائقة.  
شكرا لتعاونكم وحسن استجابتكم....

الباحثة

مريم أبوزايدة

القسم الأول : معلومات العامة

يرجى الإجابة على الأسئلة التي تتضمن معلومات عامة بوضع إشارة ( X )

1- الجنس :

ذكر ,  أنثى

2- العمر :

25 سنة فأقل ,  من 26 إلى 40 سنة ,  من 41 إلى 55 ,  أكثر من 55 سنة

**3- المؤهل العلمي:** الثانوية العامة دبلوم بكالوريوس ماجستير غير ذلك**4- طبيعة المهنة :** موظف تاجر عامل غير ذلك**5- الموقع الجغرافي :** الضفة الغربية الخط الأخضر غير ذلك**القسم الثاني :**

فيما يلي مجموعة من المحاور خاصة بأثر الإحتلال الإسرائيلي في بعض المجالات الثقافية للفلسطينيين ، يرجى التكرم باختيار الإجابة المناسبة بعد قراءة العبارات الآتية :

المحور الأول: أثر الإحتلال الإسرائيلي على الهوية الفلسطينية.					
الرقم	موافق بشدة	موافق	محايد	معارض	معارض بشدة
1					يخلق الإحتلال الإسرائيلي رد فعل عند الفلسطينيين بحيث يجعله أكثر تمسكاً بهويته
2					يشعر الفرد الفلسطيني في الخط الأخضر بالإغتراب
3					يشعر الفرد الفلسطيني في الخط الأخضر بالتمييز العنصري
4					يشعر الفرد الفلسطيني في الضفة الغربية بالإغتراب
5					هز لإحتلال شعور الفلسطيني بهويته العربية

المحور الثاني : أثر الإحتلال الإسرائيلي على الموروث التراثي للفلسطينيين					
الرقم	موافق بشدة	موافق	محايد	معارض بشدة	معارض بشدة
1					طمس الإحتلال الإسرائيلي الموروث التراثي الفلسطيني المتناقل عبر الأجيال
2					أفرز لإحتلال الإسرائيلي قيما ثقافية جديدة على المجتمع الفلسطيني على مستوى العادات والتقاليد
3					زاد الإحتلال الإسرائيلي من تمسك الفرد الفلسطيني بتراثه
4					ساعد إحياء المناسبات الفلسطينية في الحفاظ على الموروث التراثي في الضفة الغربية والخط الأخضر
5					ساهم التراث الفلسطيني في التأثير على ثقافة المحتل المزعومة

المحور الثالث: أثر الإحتلال الإسرائيلي على سلوك وتصرفات الفرد الفلسطيني					
الرقم	موافق بشدة	موافق	محايد	معارض بشدة	معارض بشدة
1					دخلت قوانين وقيم جديدة على المجتمعات المحلية مع وجود الإحتلال الإسرائيلي
2					تم تطبيق القوانين الإسرائيلية داخل الخط الأخضر أكثر من مناطق السلطة الفلسطينية
3					أسهم الإحتلال الإسرائيلي في إدخال الثقافة الغربية على الثقافة الفلسطينية
4					إرتفع مستوى حرية التعبير لدى الفرد الفلسطيني بعد الإحتلال
5					يستهدف الإحتلال الإسرائيلي فكر الشباب الفلسطيني وذلك بتقديم مغريات لحياة أفضل

المحور الرابع: أثر الإحتلال الإسرائيلي على اللغة					
الرقم	موافق بشدة	موافق	محايد	معارض بشدة	معارض بشدة
1					أجيد اللغة العبرية بمستوى كبير الى حد ما
2					أستمع الى الاعلام العبري دائما
3					أجد اللغة العبرية قريبه الى حد ما من اللغة العربية
4					أتابع البرامج العبرية الثقافية
5					أستمع الى الأغاني العبرية بدرجة عالية

إنتهت الاسئلة



الجامعة العربية الأمريكية  
كلية الدراسات العليا

أثر الإحتلال الإسرائيلي في المجالات الثقافية للفلسطينيين في الضفة  
الغربية والخط الأخضر

إعداد الطالبة:

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المشرف: الدكتور نضال الجيوسي

تم تقديم هذه الرسالة استكمالاً لمتطلبات درجة الماجستير في  
تخصص الأدب والتواصل بين الثقافات

تشرين أول 2021

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## ملخص

هدفت هذه الرسالة الى دراسة أثر الاحتلال الاسرائيلي على المكونات الثقافية للفلسطينيين في الضفة الغربية والخط الاخضر. ابتدئت هذه الدراسة من الفرضيه الاساسيه والتي جاءت على النحو التالي: إن للاحتلال الاسرائيلي أثرا سلبيا على الجوانب الثقافية للفلسطينيين في الضفة الغربية وداخل الخط الأخضر ، حيث جاوبت على سؤال الرسالة الرئيسي وهو ما هو تأثير الاحتلال الاسرائيلي على المكونات الثقافية للفلسطينيين في الضفة الغربية والخط الأخضر. ركزت الرسالة على دراسة أربعة مكونات ثقافيه وهي اللغه، الهويه ، السلوك والتراث. استخدمت هذه الرسالة منهج البحث النوعي، والكمي في تطبيق هذه الرسالة. تم استخدام طريقتين لجمع البيانات حيث تمثلت باستخدام الاستبانه والمقابلات الهاتفية كمصدر اولي ورئيسي للحصول على البيانات اللازمه ، وتم الرجوع الى العديد من الدراسات والكتب والابحاث المنشوره كمصدر للمعلومات الثانويه اللازمه في الرسالة.

تبين من خلال الاجابه على اسئلة الرسالة اعلاه بوجود تأثير من قبل الاحتلال الاسرائيلي على المكونات الثقافية للفلسطينيين في كلا المنطقتين الضفة الغربية والخط الاخضر حيث تركز تأثير الاحتلال اولا على الجيل الصاعد. ايضا تركز تأثير الاحتلال الاسرائيلي بشكل رئيسي على مكونيي الهوية والسلوك بشكل اكبر من باقي المكونات . أوصت الرسالة بان يكون هناك دور أقوى ووجود اكثر للقادة و السياسيين الفلسطينيين في التخفيف من تأثير الاحتلال الاسرائيلي على الثقافه الفلسطينيه. ايضا اوصت الرسالة بان يكون هناك تركيز على المناهج الفلسطينيه بما يخص ادراج مواد تختص بالثقافه الفلسطينيه على مختلف مكوناتها. ايضا ان يتم ادراج تعليم اللغه العبريه كماده معتمده ضمن المنهاج الفلسطيني. وان يكون للطالب الفلسطيني دور في بناء واعداد هذا المنهاج الثقافي من اجل اشراكهم ورفع حس المسؤوليه لديهم في عملية تعزيز وحفاظ الموروث الثقافي. كما اوصت الباحثه ايضا بان يكون هناك جهود اعلى من قبل السلطة الوطنيه الفلسطينيه بتوفير فرص عمل بشكل أكثر للفلسطينيين خصوصا في الضفة الغربية .