

Abstract:

In an attempt to contribute in the process of preserving Palestinian history, and protecting the Palestinian narrative of the 1948 Nakba from being buried under the rubble of the fabricated Israeli narrative of that year. This research comes as a part of a project in collecting the Palestinian oral history by recording more than 50 oral interviews with Palestinian refugees from three different generations who had been displaced – either themselves or their families– in 1948, hence their situation changed from being owners and farmers known for their hospitality, to become dispersed refugees whom are rarely well received.

The interviews conducted for the purpose of this research were mostly carried out in Ramallah City and its surroundings, in addition to some other interviews from other places –in Palestine and abroad such as Egypt and Jordan. However, by taking into consideration the geographic area covered in these interviews concerning the village/ city of origin of the interviewees, it is much broader, with more than 20 villages/ cities: (Saqia, Annaba, Beit Nabala, Al-Maghar, Ein Karem, Beit Thul, Dawayma, Qattana, Abbasia, Mzeir'a, Samsem, Deir Tareef, Safriya, Beit Dajan, Lifta, Khubeza, and Sidrehm in addition to the cities of Jaffa, Lod, Ramla, and Safad).

What distinguishes this research from other similar researches is the way it presents a comparison between the three observed generations, it does not separate each generation in a chapter, but rather combines all these generations in every chapter of this study, and this is due to the overlap and the similarities in the attitudes, views and narratives of the different interviewees. Thus, major dimensions are adopted, starting with presenting the narratives of the interviewees –whether they were directly narrated or reported by their children or grandchildren

– regarding the village/ city of origin, the journey of displacement, and life after the Nakba. I also discussed what these refugees faced after “leaving” the village/ city of origin such as life in the camps, the role of UNRWA, and women’s role at the time. The following chapter, in a way, presents the opinions of refugees I interviewed from the different generations concerning some of the key issues in the Palestinian question, such as the issue of “responsibility” for the Nakba, the Right of Return, and assessing other generations of refugees.

The last chapter of this study specifies the main results of the study which are unique in terms of their diversity and how they do not focus only on one aspect. They also covered social, political, and even psychological aspects, which I believe that each of which can shape an interesting topic to be further studied by those for instance interested in the psychological aspects of refugees’ life. Furthermore, the most significant result of this study is the importance of not generalizing any of the results, since the interviews always included different contents, and each issue that was raised or witnessed by the first generation, subsequent generations also witnessed. This led me to another result which is not to consider the “generation” factor as the basis of differentiating between different generations, since other factors such as Family, political orientation and others, played more significant roles.