



The Cultural Image of Algeria through Documentary Films on Al Jazeera

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Abstract:

This scientific study explores the cultural image of Algeria as portrayed in documentaries aired by Al Jazeera. Recognizing that documentaries aim to authentically represent reality through visuals and sound, this research falls within the category of descriptive studies. We employed a descriptive-analytical method, utilizing observation and content analysis tools, to focus on two documentaries: "The Chaoui Film" and "The Tuareg Film." These documentaries examine content related to Algerian cultural heritage and effectively convey an authentic and realistic image of Algeria's diverse customs, traditions, and cultural heritage. Additionally, they showcase various art forms, including traditional songs and local music, highlighting the unique cultural aspects of these regions.

Keywords: Documentary Films; Mental Image; Algerian Culture; Al Jazeera Documentary Channel.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, the film industry has distinguished itself through various historical phases and influences, marked by its aesthetic and creative touch. It fundamentally relies on the manipulation of audiovisual effects, encompassing both sound and visuals. This capability has enabled it to captivate the minds and visions of viewers completely. Consequently, we cannot deny the significant impact of this art form on individuals and its dominance over their thoughts.

Throughout the different stages of the film industry, this influence has been reinforced by its diverse forms, ranging from silent films to talking and animated films. This evolution led to the emergence of various types, including documentary or factual cinema, which has garnered significant interest from many directors and film producers. This interest was further bolstered by the advent of television channels specializing in this genre, facilitating the establishment of the principles and foundations necessary for narrating truths and depicting reality.

The documentary or factual film serves as a vital cultural, informational, educational, and historical medium for societies in general, and for Arab and Islamic societies in particular. The significance of this genre stems from the inherent need of individuals and communities to discover and understand reality. While the pursuit of understanding reality is a fundamental goal of all art forms, it is particularly explicit in documentaries, both in terms of form and content.

Additionally, the documentary film is regarded as a type of television media that has experienced substantial growth, particularly with the emergence of specialized television channels. This genre's distinctive features have seamlessly integrated it into the television industry, with channels relying on it to convey information, images, and data, subsequently preserving them through archiving. This form of television has also facilitated a qualitative shift, enabling it to showcase nations, their histories, geographies, cultures, and more.

Al Jazeera Documentary Channel is a cultural channel specializing in broadcasting documentary films, with a primary focus on humanity, the lived environment, and the interaction between the two. The channel aims to promote documentary culture in the Arabic-speaking world, support its creators and producers, and foster the development of a documentary industry. It seeks to establish genuine partnerships with documentary pioneers worldwide to create distinct documentary media that serve humanity and its environment with a civilized vision, spreading hope and fostering a culture of communication between peoples and civilizations.

Since its inception, Al Jazeera Documentary Channel has discovered a rich and diverse cultural, intellectual, and historical heritage in Algeria, similar to other Arab and international countries. This heritage has been utilized as raw material for producing numerous outstanding cultural documentaries. Notable examples include *A Day in Algeria*, *Harachi Revolution*, *City Taxi*, *Ramadan in Algeria*, and *Ahilil*, among many others. These documentaries have covered topics ranging from culture, politics, and history to ancient places and prominent figures.

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In this context, it is crucial to understand the cultural image of Algeria as portrayed by Al Jazeera Documentary Channel through its produced and broadcasted films. These films focus on Algeria's rich cultural heritage across its various regions, exploring customs, traditions, norms, beliefs, values, and principles that are deeply rooted in Algerian society. They aim to preserve the nation's cultural, social, religious, and national identity, all of which are intrinsically linked to culture as a whole.

The problem of this study can be formulated in the following main question:

How has the cultural image of Algeria been manifested through the documentaries broadcast by Al Jazeera?

The following sub-questions fall under this problem:

- What are the themes contained in the documentary films on Al Jazeera Documentary Channel that reflect the cultural image of Algeria?
- How were the documentary films that reflect the cultural image of Algeria produced by Al Jazeera Documentary Channel?
- In what environment did Al Jazeera Documentary Channel film the documentaries that reflect the cultural image of Algeria?
- What sources did Al Jazeera Documentary Channel rely on in producing the documentaries that reflect the cultural image of Algeria?
- What artistic elements did Al Jazeera Documentary Channel use in the documentaries that reflect the cultural image of Algeria?
- What television artistic forms were included in the documentaries broadcasted by Al Jazeera Documentary Channel that reflect the cultural image of Algeria?

1.1 Study importance

The importance of this study lies in the significance of the subject itself, which is the cultural image of Algeria as depicted through the documentary films broadcasted by Al Jazeera Documentary Channel. The study aims to shed light on the attempt to understand the image presented by documentary films on specialized Arab satellite channels, particularly Al Jazeera Documentary Channel. These documentaries translate reality and attempt to convey it as it is through visuals and sound. Documentary cinema derives its importance from the need to construct reality, achieved through the vision of the screenwriter and director, using direct presentation of real facts or clear, precise, and often reliable simulation of this reality, aiming to address the intellect and thus convince the viewer.

1.2 Study objectives

The primary objective of this study is to identify the cultural image of Algeria as depicted in the documentary films broadcasted by Al Jazeera Documentary Channel. This involves examining the director's approach to producing these documentaries, including the themes explored, the environment from which the visuals are captured, the sources of information utilized, and the



cinematic language employed. Additionally, the study aims to analyze the forms and elements of the documentaries that address various cultural themes, reflecting Algeria's cultural image on Al Jazeera Documentary Channel.

2. Defining Study Concepts

2.1 Documentary Film

A documentary film is a type of non-fiction film that does not rely on storytelling or fiction but draws its material from real life, either by directly presenting events as they occurred or by reconstructing and adjusting this reality in a way that remains close to the actual truth (Al-Khalifi, 2008, p. 107).

The International Documentary Film Federation defined a documentary film in 1948 as: "All methods of recording on film any aspect of reality presented through direct filming or by faithfully reconstructing it when necessary. Three elements make it documentary: a story and real facts without fiction, real people, and a real place" (Nassar, 2007, p. 44).

Cultural documentary films aim to disseminate general culture among different segments of society by presenting artistic, social, and cultural topics, which are a means of spreading culture and knowledge, and introducing societies to different cultures (Youssef, 1983, p. 03).

2.2 Culture

In its general sense, culture is a broad perspective on existence and life. It is also an attitude towards all of this, which may manifest as a creed, an artistic expression, a philosophical doctrine, legislative principles, or a practical moral conduct. Thus, culture represents the superstructure of society, consisting of religion, philosophy, art, literature, legislation, and prevailing general values (Shalabi, 1994, p. 247).

Some view culture as the way of life of any human community. It includes acquired behavior patterns and recognized beliefs used by everyone and expected to be used by others. Based on this, culture encompasses speech patterns, crafts, games, rituals, basic knowledge prevalent in society, and religious beliefs, all of which must have a certain degree of stability and continuity. From a communicative perspective, culture is a complex structure of symbols, knowledge, terms, language, information processing patterns, rules, rituals, customs, lifestyles, and attitudes that connect a group of people at a certain time and give them a shared identity. Media plays an important role in the emergence and transmission of culture, as high technology enhances the possibilities of creativity, transmission, and storage (Misharqa, 2002, p. 48).

In this study, culture refers to the acquired behavior patterns, customs, traditions, and diverse heritage of Algerian society, which are conveyed by various media, including specialized Arab television channels like Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, serving as raw material for various audiovisual productions, particularly cultural documentary films.

2.3 Mental Image

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A mental image is defined as the set of accumulated knowledge, experiences, and expertise that form in the audience's mind and create a certain impression through various communication means. These impressions shape and influence the behavior of individuals toward a society, company, or institution. This accumulated knowledge is linked to individuals' emotions, attitudes, and social beliefs (Sheikh, 2009).

In this study, the mental image specifically refers to the image that Al Jazeera Documentary Channel creates in the viewer's mind about Algerian culture through its production of documentary films. These films focus on cultural heritage, various customs, traditions, and other content that conveys the general culture of Algeria.

3. Study Methodology

3.1 Study Tools

This study falls within the category of descriptive research; thus, we relied on the descriptive-analytical method to analyze and describe the content of the documentary films aired by Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, which serve as the study sample and reflect the cultural image of Algeria. Our reliance on this method from the descriptive aspect involved gathering information and data and presenting them accurately in the form of study results. As for the analytical aspect, it involved analyzing what we had described in terms of form, as well as examining the content of the selected documentaries in terms of visuals, sound, sound effects, and other elements, and analyzing their implications regarding the reason for their employment and their intended messages. This is reflected in the study of both form and content.

3.1.1 Study Tools

In this study, we utilized two important tools typically used in this type of descriptive scientific research, which mainly focuses on analyzing media content, especially television content:

A. Observation Tool

By watching the films broadcasted on Al Jazeera Documentary Channel that focus on Algerian culture. Before selecting the study sample, which consists of the two documentaries "The Chaoui Wedding" and "The Tuareg Wedding," we recorded and carefully and thoroughly watched them to analyze their content.

B. Content Analysis Tool

We designed a content analysis form and divided it into the following categories:

1. Categories of What Was Said:

It includes the following subcategories:

- This includes determining the content of each documentary film in the study sample, highlighting the essential elements of the studied subject.
- This involves clarifying the channel's objectives behind producing these films.



- This includes identifying and listing the values contained in the two documentary films in the study sample, which the channel aims to instill and reinforce in the viewer through the presented content.
- 2. Categories of How It Was Said
 - This involves determining the language levels used in the two documentary films, whether Classical Arabic, Amazigh, French, or local dialects.
 - This involves analyzing the sound effects employed in the two documentary films.
 - This includes analyzing the nature of the scenes and images used in the study sample.
 - This involves identifying the environments chosen for filming the two documentary films in the study sample.

3.2 Study Population and Sample:

The study population consists of the documentary films broadcasted by Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, focusing on various aspects and forms of Algerian culture. These films are numerous and diverse, corresponding to the different established programs that the channel airs about various Arab or foreign countries. The duration of these films varies according to the standards of documentary film production, such as the programs "Arab Weddings," "Ancient Cafés," "Story of a Dish," and others.

For the study sample, we used a purposive sampling method, selecting the documentary films broadcasted on Al Jazeera Documentary Channel in 2019. These films centered on Algerian culture, specifically the documentary "The Chaoui Wedding" and the documentary "The Tuareg Wedding" from the program "Arab Weddings."

3.2.1 Introduction to Al Jazeera Documentary Channel

Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, established in January 2007 in Doha, Qatar, is a cultural channel specializing in the production and broadcast of various types of documentary films. It is part of the Al Jazeera network and broadcasts in Arabic. The channel relies on a vast and diverse archive, including extensive and substantial visual documentary libraries from around the world, owned by Al Jazeera.

According to the description of Al Jazeera Documentary Channel from the official website of the Al Jazeera network and its various channels, Al Jazeera Documentary Channel is a cultural channel specializing in broadcasting documentary films. It is the first of its kind in the Arabic-speaking world, focusing fundamentally on humans, their lived environment, and the interaction between them.

Al Jazeera Documentary Channel aims to promote documentary culture in the Arabic-speaking world, support its creators and producers, and foster the development of a documentary industry. It seeks genuine partnerships with its pioneers worldwide, hoping to create a distinct documentary media that serves humanity and its environment with a civilized vision. The channel

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aims to spread hope and foster a culture of communication between peoples and civilizations (Network, Al Jazeera, n.d.).

Through its documentary films, Al Jazeera Documentary Channel tells stories that deserve to be told, portrays people's realities, shapes the awareness of millions, and inspires viewers in the Arab world. As the first Arabic documentary channel, it always focuses on highlighting stories that combine utility and entertainment, relying on advanced cinematic production techniques. Thanks to the capabilities of the Al Jazeera media network, the channel can access any region in the world. Its programs, which are broadcast around the clock, are distinguished by their diversity and high quality. The channel is dedicated to encouraging creativity throughout the Arab world and supporting the new generation of directors and producers. It airs programs and documentaries in various fields: political, historical, social, or cultural (Al Jazeera Documentary, 2009).

4. Analysis of Study Data and Results

4.1 Technical Details of the Documentary Films

4.1.1 First Documentary Film:

- **Title:** Arab Weddings: The Chaoui Wedding. Algeria
- **Duration:** 27:01 minutes
- **Production Year:** 2019
- **Channel:** Al Jazeera Documentary
- **Executive Producer:** Media DZ
- **Director:** Mohamed Wali
- **Production Management at the Channel:** Jamal Al-Dallali
- **Editorial Supervision at the Channel:** Mahdi Bakkar
- **YouTube Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hL5bWglygDY>

4.1.2 Second Documentary Film

- **Title:** Arab Weddings: The Tuareg Wedding .. Algeria
- **Duration:** 25:34 minutes
- **Production Year:** 2019
- **Channel:** Al Jazeera Documentary
- **Executive Producer:** Media DZ
- **Director:** Mohamed Wali
- **Production Management at the Channel:** Jamal Al-Dallali
- **Editorial Supervision at the Channel:** Mahdi Bakkar

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6DM0C9phL0&list=PPSV>

4.2 Analysis and Interpretation of Study Data

Table 1. Elements of Algeria's Cultural Image in the Two Documentary Films

Cultural Image	Frequency	Percentage
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Customs and Traditions	19	21%
Traditional Clothing	12	14%
Traditional Cooking	7	8%
Traditional Utensils	9	10%
Music and Songs	20	23%
Places	21	24%
Total	88	100%

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on

It is evident from the previous table that the elements most prominently showcasing Algeria's cultural image in the two documentaries aired by Al Jazeera Documentary Channel are places (24%), followed by music and songs (23%), customs and traditions (21%), and traditional clothing (14%). The close percentages between the elements of traditional utensils and traditional cooking were estimated at 10% and 8%, respectively. Here, we find that the two documentaries, "Chaoui Wedding" and "Tuareg Wedding," focused on old places such as villages and towns as well as urban areas, and on music and songs like the authentic Chaoui and Tuareg songs that reflect the heritage of the two regions and communities. Additionally, they highlight customs and traditions, which reflect the Algerian individual's connection to each region of the country through its customs, traditions, arts, and heritage during various events and celebrations. These are the essential and important elements of cultural identity, reflecting the Algerian artistic heritage that continues to be passed down through generations.

Table 2. Functions of the Two Documentary Films

Functions of the Documentary Films	Frequency	Percentage
Informative and Educational	10	10%
Tourism	19	18%
Recording and Documentation	11	11%
Preservation of Cultural Heritage	64	61%
Total	104	100%

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on

The functions of the two documentary films "The Chaoui Wedding" and "The Tuareg Wedding," which Al Jazeera Documentary Channel aimed to highlight, are primarily the preservation of cultural heritage, accounting for the highest percentage (61%). This function is intended to introduce the cultural identity of the Chaoui and Tuareg communities by focusing on their heritage and authenticity, and how their residents maintain the tangible and intangible heritage of their ancestors. This is observed through traditional utensils, cooking, clothing, popular houses, horsemanship, and gunpowder displays.

Following this is the tourism function at 18%, which is highlighted through the filming of diverse and beautiful areas in the Aurès region, such as the Ghouta area, and the beautiful desert regions classified as national and world heritage sites that attract tourists from inside and outside

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Algeria every year. This showcases the ecological diversity in Algeria and provides a distinctive image of Algeria's natural beauty.

The functions of recording and documentation and the informative and educational functions come with close percentages of 11% and 10%, respectively. These functions aim to inform the Arab viewer about Algeria's rich and diverse culture. Despite technological advancements, these communities, like other regions such as Kabylia, still maintain their wedding and celebration customs and traditions, preserving their authenticity and cultural identity. Additionally, the documentation and recording of Algeria's tangible and intangible cultural heritage, exemplified by the Chaoui and Tuareg regions, ensure that these films remain as witnesses and sources of information.

Table 3. Values in the Documentary Films

Values	Frequency	Percentage
Cultural Identity	67	56%
Authenticity and Modernity	8	7%
Beauty	22	18%
Social Cohesion and Solidarity	23	19%
Total	120	100%

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on

The results from the above table data show that Al Jazeera Documentary Channel aims to instill and reinforce the value of cultural identity for the Chaoui and Tuareg communities in Algeria, with a percentage of 56%. This is reflected in the customs and traditions depicted in the films, such as the henna ceremony for the bride and groom, the custom of escorting the bride from her parents' house and welcoming her by the groom's family, and the traditional local songs and music that distinguish each region, particularly Chaoui and Tuareg songs.

The films also showcase traditional dishes like "couscous," "shakshouka," and "zviti," as well as traditional pottery still used today in celebrations and festivities. Additionally, they highlight the traditional Chaoui and Tuareg clothing, which is unique to each region in Algeria for both men and women, and is tied to historical legends.

The value of social cohesion and solidarity, shown through the cooperation among family, friends, and neighbors and their attendance at weddings to share in the joy and happiness, accounts for 19%, closely followed by the value of beauty at 18%. The lowest percentage, 7%, represents the value of combining authenticity with modernity.

Table 4. Sources of Information for the Documentary Films

Sources	Frequency	Percentage
Local Dignitaries	1	9%
Influential Figures	7	64%
Artist	2	18%



Historian	1	9%
Total	11	100%

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on

The table above shows that Al Jazeera Documentary Channel relied on influential figures as sources of information for producing the two documentary films in the study sample, accounting for 64%. These influential figures include ordinary people such as family members, relatives of the bride and groom, friends, and guests. These individuals are considered very close and reliable sources as they live daily life while preserving the customs and traditions in organizing and preparing weddings in these two communities, the Chaoui and the Tuareg.

Artists were the second most relied-upon sources at 18%, as they play a key role in weddings, whether in Chaoui or Tuareg traditions. Music is a significant cultural heritage preserved through generations and is an integral part of wedding celebrations in these communities.

Reliance on local dignitaries and historians was equal at 9% each. They are considered official and trustworthy sources that can support and confirm the information provided by other sources.

Table 5. Language Used in the Documentary Films

Language Used	Frequency	Percentage
Classical Arabic	29	24%
Amazigh (Chaoui and Tuareg)	36	29%
French	5	4%
Local Dialects	53	43%
Total	123	100%

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on

From the previous table, it is evident that local dialects are the most commonly used in the two documentary films in the study sample, accounting for 43%. This is due to the nature of the topics addressed—Chaoui and Tuareg wedding traditions—where influential figures are allowed to speak comfortably in their dialects for ease of expression and communication, especially since the channel uses subtitles in all its television productions.

The use of the Amazigh language comes second at 29%, reflecting the specific linguistic characteristics of the Chaoui and Tuareg communities, who use their native language to convey information and discuss deeply rooted customs and traditions, especially in naming things in Amazigh.

Classical Arabic is used in 24% of cases, mainly by heritage and history researchers, as it is the scientific language they work and research in. Additionally, as academics presenting the region's history on an Arabic channel, they recognize the importance of speaking in Classical Arabic to convey information clearly and facilitate understanding by the Arab viewer.

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The weakest percentage, 4%, is for the use of French. This occurs in some phrases and sentences commonly used by Algerians and has become habitual in their speech.

Thus, the diversity in the use of languages and dialects in the two documentary films highlights the richness and variety of Algeria's deep-rooted linguistic heritage, which varies from one region to another. This diversity, in itself, is part of Algerian culture, as language is an ancient cultural heritage that reflects the history and depth of Algerian society as a whole

Table 6: Sound Effects

Sound Effects	Frequency	Percentage
Natural Effects	0	0%
Recorded Effects	16	40%
Local Music and Songs	20	50%
Religious Chants	4	10%
Total	40	100%

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on

From the previous table data, it is evident that Al Jazeera Documentary Channel relied on local music and songs in the two documentary films, accounting for 50%. This is because they are deeply embedded in the cultural heritage of the Chaoui region in eastern Algeria and the Tuareg in the deep Algerian desert. They express the authenticity of the region and its customs and traditions, particularly in wedding celebrations and other occasions. The channel also utilized recorded effects in the films, accounting for 40%, to convey reality as it is and to add a sense of beauty to the scenes and live shots, which are characteristics of documentary films. Religious chants were used sparingly, at 10%, as they are part of the deeply rooted religious heritage in Algerian weddings, often performed during specific times such as the henna ceremony for the bride or groom.

The study sample's reliance on a variety of effects—whether natural, visual, or even local music, songs, and religious chants—also contributes to the professionalism and expertise in the production and direction of documentary films. These aim to convey an accurate portrayal of the subject matter, particularly when it concerns culture, art, beauty, and heritage. In this context, the filmmaker found in Algeria all the elements and foundations necessary for producing documentaries that reflect Algerian culture, especially in the Chaoui and Tuareg regions. This approach ensures the creation of a distinctive audiovisual production that attracts more viewers and fulfills the goals of the channel.

Table 7. Visual Supports

Visual Supports	Frequency	Percentage
Live Filmed Scenes	60	75%
Static Filmed Images	20	25%
Archival Images	0	0%



Total	80	100%
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Source: Prepared by the researcher based on

The results from the above table indicate that Al Jazeera Documentary Channel employed a variety of visual supports in the production of the two documentary films "The Chaoui Wedding" and "The Tuareg Wedding." Live filmed scenes were predominant, accounting for 75%, as documentary films, unlike fictional films, aim to depict reality as it is. This approach enhances the viewer's experience with greater beauty and authenticity, fulfilling the documentary's purpose of recording and conveying the true image.

Static filmed images were used as a fundamental support for live scenes, making up 25% of the visual content, which aligns with television production requirements. However, the director did not use archival images due to the availability of raw media material and the filming environment. Additionally, the preservation of customs, traditions, and cultural heritage by Algerians to this day allows for an accurate depiction of reality.

Table 8. Filming Locations

Filming Locations	Frequency	Percentage
Natural Sites	13	23%
Urban Sites	5	9%
Traditional Popular Homes	11	20%
Rural and Desert Villages	8	15%
Party and Hairdressing Halls	10	18%
Popular Markets	8	15%
Total	55	100%

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on

The table shows that the most frequently featured filming locations in the two documentary films, which are the focus of the study, are natural sites in both the Chaoui region and the Tuareg nomadic areas in the deep Algerian desert, accounting for 23%. These locations highlight the beauty of nature and reflect the authenticity of these two regions. Following this, traditional homes make up 20%, representing the area's inherited, age-old heritage passed down through generations, showcasing its deep cultural roots. Algeria should preserve these ancient and historic places and encourage their use in cinematic production by audiovisual production companies and television channels, whether Algerian, Arab, or even foreign, as they reflect the antiquity and richness of Algerian culture. Reception halls and barbershops represent 18%, as observed in the Chaoui wedding, which attempts to blend tradition with modernity, keeping up with social developments while preserving the authentic customs and traditions of the Chaoui people. This is also evident in the film scenes shot in traditional villages, hamlets, and popular markets, all equally represented at 15%. Meanwhile, rural and desert villages were chosen as the least featured locations, at 9%.

4.3 General Results of the Study

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After analyzing the content of the two documentary films from Algerian weddings, "The Chaoui Wedding" and "The Tuareg Wedding," we arrived at the following results:

- The two documentary films, The Traditional Wedding and The Tuareg Wedding, produced by Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, serve as an audiovisual archival record of Algeria's ancient and authentic cultural heritage, which dates back thousands of years. They capture the history and richness of Algeria, particularly the diverse traditions of the Chaoui region in eastern Algeria and the Tuareg in the Tamanrasset area, deep in the Algerian desert. These films are just a sample of the many diverse documentaries produced by this specialized channel. Additionally, documentary films have increasingly gained attention from television channels today, especially specialized ones like Al Jazeera Documentary, due to the importance of documentation in our lives.
- The two documentaries aim to present a positive and expressive image of Algeria's diverse and authentic culture in the Chaoui and Tuareg communities. They succeed in creatively conveying the Algerian cultural heritage with its authenticity, simplicity, beauty, and truth, thus contributing to passing down this heritage to future generations, so they may embrace, take pride in, and preserve it.
- The documentary films produced by Al Jazeera Documentary Channel focus on locations according to the nature of the topic and the selected regions as audiovisual material. They also emphasize local music and songs, customs and traditions, and the preservation of cultural heritage, all of which are among the most important elements of the rich and diverse Algerian culture, celebrating weddings and various social and religious events in the Chaoui and Tuareg communities. Therefore, it is essential to support such television productions that contribute to the preservation of Algeria's diverse cultural heritage
- The two documentary films rely on real active figures as sources of information to easily convey messages and simplify information for the viewer. Additionally, artists, as key participants in traditional Algerian weddings, play an essential role, with regional elders and historians serving as scientific support to validate the information, albeit to a lesser extent. This approach is connected to the reliance on real scenes and natural locations, which is a fundamental aspect of documentary filmmaking, aiming to present a true image. The films depend on everything authentic, natural, and realistic, bringing creativity, simplicity, and truth to the viewer to persuade and influence them.
- The two documentary films, which form the study sample, encompass numerous values, most notably cultural identity, social cohesion, and solidarity. They aim to portray an authentic and natural image of the unity within all segments of Algerian society and their preservation of the cultural heritage that enriches every region of the country. In an era dominated by machinery, technology, digitalization, and various electronic means, which



have significantly impacted individuals and societies—especially on a social level, creating a sense of isolation and individualistic thinking—the films highlight that Algerian society still upholds the values of cooperation, solidarity, and social cohesion. However, the films did not fully showcase many other positive social aspects that vary from one region to another, or even within the same region.

- The two documentary films, *The Chaoui Wedding* and *The Tuareg Wedding*, employ a variety of rich sound effects and visual aids that reflect the lived reality in both communities. Sound effects and visual aids are among the most crucial tools a director relies on when producing documentaries, particularly when the subject involves culture and heritage, to achieve their goals and engage the audience. This diversity and richness were found in Algerian culture, even though not all aspects of the Chaoui and Tuareg regions were fully utilized

The documentary films "*The Chaoui Wedding*" and "*The Tuareg Wedding*" employ diverse and rich sound effects and visual supports that reflect the lived reality of the two communities.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the documentary film, as a distinctive art form, contains a great deal of creativity and attempts to convey reality as it is in an aesthetically pleasing manner. It serves as a means of documentation and recording that channel, especially those specializing in this cinematic genre, strive to develop. Documentaries can capture nations and peoples politically, socially, historically, and especially culturally.

The two documentary films, "*The Chaoui Wedding*" and "*The Tuareg Wedding*," produced and aired by Al Jazeera as part of the "Arab Weddings" program, helped convey an authentic, realistic, and natural image of Algerian culture. They highlighted the diversity of customs, traditions, and cultural heritage, including traditional clothing, cooking, and various arts such as traditional songs and local music that distinguish these regions from other parts of Algeria.

Thus, the two documentary films showcased Algeria's diverse culture and documented the Amazigh language and Algerian dialects. Although the rich cultural tapestry of Algeria cannot be fully conveyed in a single documentary, it requires multiple films for directors to comprehensively present it to both Arab and global audiences.

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