

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910878797403321
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Titolo	Who Benefits from the Sanitized Language of Violence? // Matthew Fyjis-Walker
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston : , : Brill Nijhoff, , 2024 ©2024
ISBN	9789004696426 9789004696419
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (80 pages)
Collana	Human Rights and Humanitarian Law E-Books Online, Collection 2024 International Studies on Military Ethics ; ; 14
Disciplina	341
Soggetti	Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Human rights Great Britain Military policy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

Language is not neutral; it determines, and is determined, by perspective. This volume explores the role of an influential vocabulary of war, sanitised language, the language that seeks to clean up the appearance of events through euphemism, abstract words and opaque phrases. Critical discourse analysis of the language of recent military campaigns shows that the public authorities do not explain events as clearly as they might. Despite social, political and strategic incentives to use sanitised language, its use appears to undermine the democratic process and reduce public authorities' freedoms, possibly emboldening adversaries and turning away potential partners.
