



A Critical Discourse Analysis of Ideological Terror Attacks in Selected Media Reports

*Asst. Prof Hashim Aliwy Mohammed Alhusseini (Ph.D)
Department of English, College of Education, Wasit University, Iraq
alhili.usm@gmail.com

Abstract

This study is sought to investigate the media coverage of the latest wave of attacks that struck New Zealand and Sri Lanka in the early months of 2019. It is believed that certain hidden messages and ideologies, that need to be explored, were embedded behind such attacks. To unmask such ideologies that embedded in the language used in media, the current study employs a critical qualitative data analysis based on Fairclough's linguistic model (2001) and van Dijk's model of the ideological square (2006). For more emphasis on data analysis, two articles from two newspapers are selected for this study to shed light on the news of the consequences of these attacks from outside their regional borders. The first one is the "Daily Sabah" from Turkey, and the other is the "New York Times" from America. The findings of the linguistic investigation reveal that these newspapers have many similarities and dissimilarities in the way they publish their news. Both newspapers utilise the concepts of "nominalization" and "negation" for the same function. By contrast, these newspapers differently employ "overwordings" and "pronouns" in publishing the news of the attacks. As for the ideological analysis, the Daily Sabah highlights the negative image of the perpetrators of New Zealand and Sri Lanka attacks, whereas the New York Times sheds light on the positive image of its journalists. Lastly, the study divulges the significant link between the linguistic features and ideological strategies in examining the selected media discourses.

Keywords: Terror Attacks, Fairclough's linguistic model, Linguistic Features, Ideological Strategies

تحليل خطاب نقدي لهجمات إرهابية مؤجلة في تقارير إعلامية مختارة

المستخلص

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التحقيق في التغطية الإعلامية لموجة الهجمات الأخيرة التي ضربت نيوزيلندا وسريلانكا في النصف الأول لعام ٢٠١٩. ويلاحظ أن هناك رسائل وإيديولوجيات مخفية مضمنة في اللغة المستخدمة في وسائل الإعلام والتي هي بحاجة إلى ان تستكشف. لكشف مثل هذه الأيديولوجيات لكشف مثل هذه الأيديولوجيات ، توظف هذه الدراسة تحليلاً كميًا نوعيًا للخطاب النقدي بناءً على نموذج فيركلف اللغوي (٢٠٠١) بالإضافة إلى نموذج فان ديك للمربع الأيديولوجي (٢٠٠٦) كإطار رئيسي للتحليل. لمزيد من التركيز على البيانات ، تم اختيار مقاليتين من صحيفتين لإجراء هذه الدراسة. الأولى هي "ديلي صباح" من تركيا ، والثانية هي صحيفة "نيويورك تايمز" الأمريكية ، لتسليط الضوء على اخبار عواقب هذه الهجمات من خارج حدودها الإقليمية. تكشف نتائج التحقيق اللغوي أن هذه الصحف لديها العديد من أوجه الشبه والاختلاف في طريقة نشر أخبارها. تستخدم كلتا الصحيفتين مفاهيم "التسمية" و"النفي" لنفس الوظيفة. على النقيض من ذلك ، تستخدم هذه الصحف بشكل مختلف "الكلمات المتكررة" و"الضمائر" في نشر أخبار الهجمات. أما بالنسبة للتحليل الأيديولوجي ، فإن صحيفة ديلي صباح تسلط الضوء على الصورة السلبية لمرتكبي اعتداءات نيوزيلندا وسريلانكا ، فيما تسلط صحيفة نيويورك تايمز الضوء على الصورة الإيجابية لصحفيها. أخيراً ، تكشف الدراسة عن الصلة المهمة بين السمات اللغوية والاستراتيجيات الأيديولوجية في فحص الخطابات الإعلامية المختارة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: هجمات ارهابية، انموذج فيركلاف اللغوي، سمات لغوية ، استراتيجيات أيديولوجية

1. Introduction

Language according to van Dijk, is "a communicative and interactional practice, in which a manipulator exercises control over other people, usually against their will or against their best interests" (Van Dijk, 2006, pp. 360-361). Language plays an important role in the social and cognitive development for us and in the formulation and articulation of our identities (Bayram, 2010). Moreover, language has no power associated with, but "language can be used to challenge power, to subvert it, to alter distributions



of power in the short and long term. Language provides articulated means for differences in power in social hierarchical structures” (Wodak, 2001, p. 11). According to Duszak and Fairclough (2008), the domain of discourse analysis is almost a new area within the broader discipline of linguistics. Additionally, Partridge (2012) argues that discourse analysis deals with describing the spoken or written texts in respect to the context in which they are involved.

The current study is mainly based on Critical Discourse Analysis(henceforth CDA) as a significant field of discourse analysis. CDA according to van Dijk (2001), is “the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context” (p.352). This approach is studied and invested by many scholars, researchers and linguists, such as Fairclough, van Dijk, Wodak and others. This study implements Fairclough’s model of linguistic analysis in addition to van Dijk model of ideological square in order to unmask the hidden messages associated with these attacks and their participants.

To investigate the recent wave of attacks that smash two countries almost at the same time, two newspapers are selected for this study: Daily Sabah and the New York Times. The first newspaper is chosen from Turkey and the latter from The United States of America to critically examine the news of the attacks that occurred outside their borders.

2. Literature Review

From the title of this paper, one can predict the type of the approach selected for data analysis. Mainly, CDA means “discourse analysis with critical stances that deal with real and often extended instances of social interaction that take a linguistic form or a partially linguistic form” (Fairclough and Wodak, 1997, p.258). Kuo and Nakamura (2005, p. 396) also elucidated “CDA is at its strongest in the direct comparison of different media accounts of the same event, demonstrating how language is a vehicle of covert interpretation in supposedly neutral reporting”.



As a matter of fact, CDA, as a branch of linguistics, is concerned with “the description of discourse to an explanation of how and why particular discourse are produced” (Teo, 2000,p.11).

As for Wodak and Meyer (2001, p.16),they highlight the idea that “a further distinguishing feature of CDA is the specific incorporation of linguistic categories into its analyses”.

2.1 Media Discourse and Terrorism

The media enjoyed a predominantly privileged and impressive position, not as an objective observer of social and political life but as socially entrenched actors; what constitutes news is determined socially and culturally (Caldas-Coulthard, 2003,p. 274). Media according to Seib (2004) is the essence of the events and institutions that reporters must cover. In *The Handbook of Terrorism and Media*, Marthoz (2017) argued that the media cannot achieve its mission of public interest if it does not enjoy the freedom to publish.

Various scholars and researchers linked the term media to terrorism, which has begun to be studied in depth. According to Marthoz (2017, p. 27), media is the primary source of information for the audience during the first moments of any terror attack even before the public authorities can take up the communication. In this respect, there is no complete study of public discourse without analysing media texts.

2.2 New Zealand and Sri Lanka Attacks

This study runs over the latest terror attacks that struck two countries around the same time; New Zealand and Sri Lanka. In 15th march, 2019, “forty-nine people have been killed and 48 wounded in shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, in the nation's deadliest attack” (“Christchurch Shootings”, 2019). The suspect, an Australian, posted the attack live on Facebook. This video was circulated over the Internet (Metz & Satariano, 2019).

Further, the Christchurch attack inspired Mrs. Ardern, the prime minister of New Zealand, to lobby for international collaboration against extremism on the Internet. She argued that a country-by-country tactic would not be functioned in an interrelated digital world. Her call came because Facebook



and other digital companies were slow to locate and remove the attack video since the original was modified in different ways and passed through several services. In August 2020, it was declared that hate campaign lastly ended when a judge in the steadfast city launched Tarrant a life imprisonment with no chance of parole (Cave & Saxton, 2020).

In this regard, Marsh, Hollingsworth, Britton, & Starr (2019) pointed out that “Sri Lanka awoke Tuesday to a day of mourning as the country continued to reel over the devastating attacks which took some 253 lives, including many Christians celebrating Easter Sunday”. The blasts targeted eight sites involving churches in which Christians celebrated Easter Sunday and luxury hotels in Colombo (Alhas, 2019).

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for implementing Easter Sunday blasts in Sri Lanka, according to the organisation’s Amaq news agency. This agency Amaq also posted photos and a video that showed eight of the attackers including one in which the men stood in front of the organisation’s black flag promising allegiance to the leader of ISIS Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. These photos could not be individually verified (Schwartz & Allam, 2019).

Bostock (2019) indicated that “Ruwan Wijewardene told Sri Lanka's Parliament that "the preliminary investigations have revealed that what happened in Sri Lanka was in retaliation for the attack against Muslims in Christchurch". In the same vein, the extremist group, National Thowheed Jamaath executed Sunday's attacks in response to terror attacks in Christchurch’ as informed by the Defense Minister Ruwan Wijewardene (Laxman & Kessler, 2019).

3. Research Methodology

This section is intended to display the research methodology in which the researcher implemented to analyse the selected data. The starting point is from Fairclough’s approach and then moving on to van Dijk model of CDA.

3.1 Fairclough and van Dijk models of CDA (2001;2006)

According to Rogers et.al, (2005, p.371), “three inter-related processes of analysis tied to three inter-related dimensions of discourse”. This approach of three dimensions helps the analyst to emphasize the important fundamentals



that constitute the text, the linguistic structures, their connotations, and the sequence of their design (Janks, 2001,p. 27)

In general , this study was based on the first dimension of Fairclough's approach that deals with vocabulary and grammar. To uncover the hidden ideologies through language used, the current study investigated four linguistic values, such as: overwordings, nominalizations, negation and pronouns depending on Fairclough's model of CDA (2001).

For more emphasis on ideology, van Dijk's model of ideological analysis was also selected to analyse texts in this study. The overall strategies of what was called ideological square, as mentioned in his model of *Politics, Ideology and Discourse* (2006,734) include the following:

- "Emphasize Our good things"
- "Emphasize Their bad things"
- "De-emphasize Our bad things"
- "De-emphasize Their good things".

Such total strategies can be employed in all stages of action, form or meaning of texts.

3.2 The Corpus of the Study

The current study presented two newspapers to be scrutinized which were Daily Sabah and the New York Times in order to express the hidden ideologies and the indirect messages through language use. The Daily Sabah newspaper provides readers with accurate details about the terror and many other types of events, provided that it focuses on preserving democracy, rule of the law, human rights and freedom (Altay, 2020).

From the other side, the New York Times was founded in 1920s as the proper newspaper in the New York City. Currently, the newspaper has various pages to show diverse perspectives with news publishing. This wide spread newspaper won 125 Pulitzer Awards (Campbell, Martin, & Fabos, 2010). Two articles from each newspaper are selected to explore the news of the attacks from outside the borders of their territories.

4. Data Analysis

This section is devoted to analyse the selected newspapers according to the devoted model.

4.1 Daily Sabah

4.1.1 The Analysis of the first Article: NZ terrorist copied Norwegian mass murderer Breivik: report

The article has several terms overworded across the text for ideological purposes, such as “Norwegian”, “New Zealand” and “Australian” which are mentioned to denote two terrorists with three nationalities who share the same ideologies. Expressions, such as “similarities”, “share” and “similar” are semantically linked to symbolize the New Zealand attacks; its manifesto which is inspired by Norway attacks and the manifesto made by Breivik. These items indicate the motives and the real causes of committing such devastating attacks that hit New Zealand, as shown in the following Table:

It is noteworthy to mention that the quantitative analysis of overwordings and pronouns is done by *AntConc 3.2.4*, a tool for counting words.

Table 1

Frequencies of the lexical items

Central terms	Occurrences	Related terms	Occurrences
Norwegian	5		2
New Zealand	2		
Australian	2		
Similar	1	Similarities	1
		Share	1
Manifesto(s)	3		

In the value of the qualitative analysis, various ideological values linked to nominalization and passivization are “deleting agency; reifying; positing

reified concepts as agents; maintaining unequal power relations” (Billig, 2008,p.6). In this regard, several examples are presented to explain this issue:

- "It's more of a call to action. But it's bit of a copy. It's a shortened version of Breivik's manifesto, in a way. And he – then he writes that Breivik is his only true inspiration," Seierstad told NPR” (“NZ Terrorist Copied Norwegian Mass Murderer Breivik”, 2019).

In the previous extract, the writer directly quotes the press release of Seiserstad when describing Tarrant’s manifesto (New Zealand terrorist) as the miniature version of Breivik, the Norwegian terrorist. Additionally, the writer focuses on the idea of Tarrant’s presence to the court in order to be judged for the crimes he committed, such as:

Tarrant, an Australian citizen who lived in New Zealand, appeared Saturday in court, where the judge read one murder charge and said more would likely follow. He was remanded in custody until his next court appearance scheduled for April 5. (“NZ Terrorist Copied Norwegian Mass Murderer Breivik”, 2019)

By accessing to the *negation*, the writer confirms or ejects something as illustrated in the next example:

- “Both men described themselves as part of a fantasy army called the Knights Templar, a group that the Norwegian investigators found to not exist at all in reality” (“NZ Terrorist Copied Norwegian Mass Murderer Breivik”, 2019).

In the previous sentence, the writer asserts that this group has no real basis.

As for *pronouns*, they are introduced by the writer to explain his ideology as shown in the following Table:

Table 2:

Frequencies of pronouns

Subjective	Frequency	Objective	Frequency	Possessive	Frequency
We	-	Us	1	Our	-
They	4	Them	1	Their	-

In the previous Table, one can notice that the subjective pronouns are the most frequent set in this text especially the pronoun “they” that indicates the two shooters for more emphasis on their negative deeds.

4.1.2 The second article: Sri Lankan Muslims remain anxious amid spreading violence

The topic of this article runs over Sri Lanka terror attacks and their consequences.

According to the lexical analysis, the writer employs several *overwordings* to express his ideology about the revenge attacks that hit the country, such as “ransacking”, “burning” and “attacking”. These terms are semantically connected to be synonymous terms in order to express the outcome of these attacks. These ideological attitudes are reflected through the writer’s linguistic preferences as we note in the next Table:

Table 3

Frequencies of the lexical items

Central words	Occurrences	Related words	Occurrences
Muslim(s)	22		
Revenge attacks	2		
Vandalizing	1	Ransacking	1
Burned	1	Burning	1
		Attacking	1
Curfew	3	Emergency	1
Fear(s)	2		
Politics	3	Politicians	1
Violence	4	Violent	1

The writer also draws attention to the status of violence that coincided with the attacks. Moreover, the writer’s focus is on the role of the government that announces the state of emergency for preserving peace after the retaliatory



attacks. Through *overwordings*, the writer explains the state of Muslims who face a complex situation within Sri Lanka.

In the grammatical strand, *nominalization* is introduced as a process of concealing or hiding the agent. In this respect, the writer concentrates on many important issues without identifying a specific actor, such as:

- "Security concerns among Muslims in Sri Lanka have grown after sword-wielding rioters killed one man while vandalizing scores of shops and mosques in apparent reprisal for the Easter bombings" ("Sri Lankan Muslims Remain Anxious",2019).

In the aforementioned quotations, the writer focuses on the process of revenge attacks rather than mentioning the attackers in a reference to mitigating the bad actions of ingroups.

In the same vein, he hides the identity of the intended individuals by citing several nominalized terms, such as:

Given the fragile atmosphere in the deeply divided country, many Muslims fear that police may not intervene to protect them or their property. In the face of the systematically organized attacks, the security forces were accused of doing nothing to stop the incitement of violence or to protect targeted communities. ("Sri Lankan Muslims Remain Anxious",2019).

In the same policy, the identity of instigators is concealed to further emphasis the negative image of the government that does not protect its citizens.

In the face of growing violent attacks, Islamic scholars called on the Sri Lanka government to protect all its citizens, including Muslims. "These actions [i.e., attacks on Muslims] violate international law and human conscience," the Qatar-based International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS) said in a Tuesday statement. ("Sri Lankan Muslims Remain Anxious",2019)



From another perspective, the abovementioned term ‘attacks’ is included to indicate their ugly image and impact on people, especially Muslims, without identifying the attackers to avoid retaliation.

- “The Christchurch mosque terror attacks became the latest example of growing far-right terrorism, a well-known global threat” (“Sri Lankan Muslims Remain Anxious”,2019).
- “The rise of global extremism, with the flourishing of the right in Europe and U.S. President Donald Trump and the alt-right in America, has emboldened potential terrorists” (“Sri Lankan Muslims Remain Anxious”,2019).

In the final two examples, the writer makes a reference to New Zealand attacks for growing terrorism in the area without identifying the shooter. Besides, he puts forward an idea of escalation of terrorism internationally through the encouragement of several politicians.

With the value of *negation*, the writer applies this concept as a means of rejecting or confirming something as illustrated below:

- “Many Muslims fear that police may not intervene to protect them or their property” (“Sri Lankan Muslims Remain Anxious”,2019).

In the previous negative example, the Muslim community affirms the idea of not feeling safe anymore.

As for *pronouns*, the writer uses various pronouns for different purposes as explained in the following Table:

Table 4

Frequencies of pronouns

Subjective	Frequency	Objective	Frequency	Possessive	Frequency
We	-	Us	-	Our	-
They	2	Them	1	Their	1

To be more precise, the presence of pronouns is limited to the pronoun ‘they’ as the most frequent in this text to negatively portray the saboteurs who violate the curfew and attack the Muslims’ buildings and properties.

4.2 The New York Times:

4.2.1 The Analysis of the First Article: The New Zealand Attack Posed New Challenges for Journalists. Here Are the Decisions The Times Made.

In the lexical stance, the researcher observes many terms that are overworded many times to specify different ideological meanings. As shown in the following Table, the frequency of these terms is exemplified:

Table 5

Frequencies of the lexical items

Central words	Occurrences	Related words	Occurrences
Internet	10	Facebook	3
		Twitter	2
		You tube	1
		Online	5
		8chan	2
Video	13		
Manifesto	7		
Image (s)	6	Photo	2
Journalist (s)	7	Editor	4
		Journalistic	1
Media	4	Social media	1

The above terms indicate some synonymous terms, such as the “internet”, “video”, “manifesto”, “journalists” and “media” to keep readers attention on

the importance of media in this attack, since the diverse media platforms are a contributing factor in spreading the attacker's video, photos and manifesto.

In the grammatical strand, *nominalized* items are provided by the writer and his participants to for ideological purposes, such as:

- "But the [killing of 50 people at mosques](#) in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Friday by a gunman intent on using the tools of the internet as weapons in his fight raised a number of new issues for our newsroom" (Ingber, 2019).

In this example, the editor sheds light on the role of media and technology that make these attacks spread across different media platforms. At this point, the writer makes no sign to the attacker or his identity.

The attack in New Zealand is unlikely to be the last in which a gunman uses the internet to try to control the narrative. Kevin, our technology columnist, says that journalists need to be aware of these tactics and handle material posted online with extreme caution. (Ingber, 2019).

In the above quote, the writer here focuses on the negative and dark consequences of exploiting media to serve the attackers' interests since the New Zealand terrorist would be a realistic model of how an extremist man would take control of electronic media tools.

According to the *negation*, the writer employs several negative sentences to confirm something, such as:

There is no doubt in my mind that this guy was very aware of how his video and his manifesto would filter through the internet and get refracted and picked up and analyzed," Kevin said. "This was, in a way, engineered for internet virality. (Ingber, 2019)

This statement proves the terrorist's intention to publish his video and manifesto on the Internet, with high speed and quality.

- "This case was different because the person who shot the video was not an eyewitness, journalist or member of law enforcement. It was the attacker himself" (Ingber, 2019).



In the earlier quote, the writer confirms the uniqueness of the attack because this time the photographer is not the editor, the journalist, or even the eyewitness, but the gunman himself.

The writer narrates his ideology and generalises his beliefs to all newspaper journalists, such as:

- “We don’t want to essentially be in the same situation,’ he said” (Ingber, 2019).
- “In the end, we neither linked to nor annotated the manifesto” (Ingber, 2019).
- “Jacinda Ardern, would not use the suspect’s name in order not to give him notoriety” (Ingber, 2019).
- “We ran it as a small image inside the newspaper; we did not put it on our home page or front page” (Ingber, 2019).

In the first two quotes, the writer rejects a portion of other media that make use of these events in order to spread hatred among the people. For this reason, the name, identity and manifesto of the terrorist will not be published in the New York times. In the final quote cited from the prime minister of New Zealand who also refuses to mention the terrorist’s name to minimize his role and stop his intent to be popular. In this extract, the writer implicitly exposes that the newspaper’s policy is in line with the New Zealand state policy not to publish the attack, as well as the name of the terrorist. The final quote presents another confirmation that the photo should not be featured on the front pages of the newspaper.

Regarding the *pronouns*, the article contains many, as clarified in the following Table:

Table 6

Frequencies of pronouns

Subjective	Frequency	Objective	Frequency	Possessive	Frequency
We	27	Us	4	Our	23
They	5	Them	4	Their	3

The subjective pronouns are the most repeated pronouns in this text, especially the exclusive “we” pronoun that expresses the state of the journalist and his associates with no reference to the addressee. The choice of this pronoun depicts the separation of the New York times journalists from other newspapers who rely on media platforms to implement some negative needs, such as disseminating hatred and disturbing elections.

4.2.2 The Analysis of the second Article: On a Day of Funerals in Sri Lanka, Religious Tension Builds

In order to unmask the hidden messages through language used, the researcher presents the *overwording* feature to analyse the most influential words that have ideological purposes. The writer inserts several expressions that have nearly the same meanings, such as “funerals”, “burials”, “bodies” and “coffins” to refer to the massive attacks and the huge number of death toll resulted from the attack. As shown in the following Table, the frequencies of these overwordings are counted:

Table 7

Frequencies of lexical items

Central words	Occurrences	Related words	Occurrences
Funeral(s)	5		
Burial(s)	5	Buried	1
		Body (s)	4
Priest(s)	3		
Coffin(s)	3		

Grammatically, *nominalizations* applied in this article is to focus on the process of ‘burial’ of victims of the Sri Lankan attacks, such as:

-
- “Mass burials of the [victims of Sunday’s suicide attacks in Sri Lanka](#), which killed more than 350 people, including dozens of children, began on Tuesday” (Gettleman & Schultz, 2019).
 - Still, M.A.M. Rameez, the mosque’s chairman, said the outreach had been complicated. A priest told members of the mosque to stay away from funerals until the atmosphere softened, though no one knows when that will be. The mosque told people to avoid going outside. Stores were shut. (Gettleman & Schultz, 2019).

In the abovementioned example, the writer focuses on the process of “social tension” that happened after the attacks, since the mosque’s chairman indicated that the “outreach” was “complicated”. Moreover, the writer concentrates on the power of the explosion more than its executer, such as:

- “The explosion was so powerful that it knocked out much of the roof, raining heavy clay tiles down on people’s heads” (Gettleman & Schultz, 2019).

In the same milieu, *negation* is applied for explaining different attitudes, such as:

- “I don’t even know what to say,” said Lasanthi Anusha, whose son stood looking at the grave of his friend. “There were even smaller ones” (Gettleman & Schultz, 2019).
- “A priest told members of the mosque to stay away from funerals until the atmosphere softened, though no one knows when that will be” (Gettleman & Schultz, 2019).
- “Anusha Nimali, one of Ms. Fernando’s daughters visiting from Kuwait, was livid. This was not a chance event, she said” (Gettleman & Schultz, 2019).
- They don’t care about us because we are poor people” (Gettleman & Schultz, 2019).

In the previous examples, the concept of confirmation is accomplished through negation, since the writer inserts comments from victims of attacks to express their condition in this sad situation and their position on the government, which does not take any action to prevent them.

Pronoun analysis is another linguistic feature to deal with this text. The frequencies of pronouns are summarized in the following Table:

Table 8

Frequencies of pronouns

Subjective	Frequency	Objective	Frequency	Possessive	Frequency
We	6	Us	1	Our	-
They	8	Them	2	Their	7

As illustrated above, the subjective and possessive pronouns ‘they’ and ‘their’ are the most frequent pronouns in this text to elucidate the status of the victims standing to pray for the souls of their loved ones. Besides, the pronoun ‘we’ is exclusively employed to indicate only the speaker and the victims’ situation who are in pain.

5. Findings and Discussion

Conboy (2007, p. 26) stated that “the language of the news reinforces the ways things are”. Through the abovementioned analysis, the two newspapers exposed various ideologies to be discussed and summarized. Through *overwordings*, the writer of Daily Sabah presented three nationalities with more emphasis on the first, such as “Norwegian” (5 times), “New Zealand” (2 times) and “Australian” (2 times) through New Zealand attacks to negatively indicate two shooters with the same extremist ideology to kill people, whereas, in the New York Times, expressions, such as “internet” (10 times), “video”(13 times), and “media” (4 times) were employed in its text to reflect the negative role of media in spreading the attacks at the time of its implementing.

Through *nominalizations*, both newspapers employed several nominalized terms to focus more on the act of shooting and the type of manifesto being livestreamed via various media platforms.

In the meaning of *negations*, Daily Sabah successfully referred to this linguistic property to express the officials’ confirmation that the “Knight



Templer group” did not exist at all. Likewise, the New York Times assured the tense atmosphere Muslims lived.

As for *pronouns*, the Daily Sabah introduced the pronoun ‘*they*’ (4 times) to negatively depict the two shooters: Tarrant and Breivik, who conducted ugly acts. Conversely, the New York Times employed the pronoun ‘*we*’ (27 times) directed exclusively for its journalists, as distinguished writers who did not seek their own interests.

As for Sri Lanka attacks, both newspapers utilised *overwordings* with different emphasis. Daily Sabah made use of several concepts, such as “revenge” (2 times), Muslims (22 times) and “burning” (2 times) to express the retaliatory attacks Muslims faced in Sri Lanka, whilst in the New York Times, the writer inserted various expressions, such as “funerals”(5 times), “burials”(5 times), “coffins” (3 times) as synonymous terms referring to huge death toll associated with these attacks.

According to *nominalizations*, Daily Sabah used such terms to implicitly hide the identity of the revenge attackers in order to calm the recent conflict. On the other vein, the New York Times employed several nominalized terms to indirectly concentrate on the event itself. The writer referred to the power of explosion, not its implementer.

In the light of *negation*, both newspapers applied this concept to express the Muslim victims who blamed the government for not protecting them.

pronouns had a different presence in these texts since Daily Sabah employed the pronoun ‘*they*’ (5 times) as the most common pronoun in its discourse that showed the ugly representation of the attackers targeting Muslims and abolishing their property. Conversely, the pronouns ‘*they*’ (8 times) and ‘*their*’ (7 times) in the New York Times expressed the state of victims only who were in a big pain.

Ultimately, it could be said that the researcher agrees with Zhou (2015) who recognized that news journalists intentionally introduce and invest ideologies into news reporting by selecting words that matter to them in order to influence readers’ perception of the incidents being reported.



6. Conclusions

In the light of the linguistic analysis, there are differences and similarities in the way these newspapers disseminate their news. The Daily Sabah focuses on the idea of presenting the identities of the shooters negatively as outgroups in New Zealand attacks and highlighting the revenge actions against Muslims negatively too in Sri Lanka attacks by employing some lexical expressions. On the other hand, the New York Times focuses on the role of the media, the internet in the New Zealand attacks and the portrayal of victims, and their conditions after Sri Lanka attacks.

Regarding the pronouns, the Daily Sabah presents the pronoun '*they*' as the most repeated in its discourse to negatively emphasize the ugly face of terrorists of New Zealand, Norway and Sri Lanka. By contrast, the New York Times presents the pronoun '*we*' to be the most frequent pronoun in its discourse to positively indicate the bright side of the newspaper's journalists who never make use of such events for their own interest.

As for nominalization and negation, both newspapers insert nominalization for more concentration on the event than its executor. Likewise, newspaper writers use negative sentences for the same affirmation function.

To recapitulate, there are different linguistic expressions and strategies that newspapers use to present the same story but differently to the audience to draw their attention



References

- Alhas, M. (2019, April 21). World denounces deadly bombings in Sri Lanka. AA. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/world-denounces-deadly-bombings-in-sri-lanka-/1458866>
- Billig, M. (2008). *The hidden roots of critical psychology*. Sage.
- Bostock, B. (2019, April 23). Sri Lanka says Easter bombing spree that killed 321 people was 'retaliation' for the mosque shootings in New Zealand. *INSIDER*. <https://www.insider.com/sri-lanka-easter-bombings-were-retaliation-for-nz-mosque-shootings-2019-4>
- Caldas-Coulthard C,R .(2003) Cross-cultural representation of 'otherness' in media discourse. In: Weiss G and Wodak R (Eds) *Critical discourse analysis: Theory and interdisciplinary*. Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 272–296.
- Campbell,R., Martin,C., and Fabos,B.(2010). *Media and culture: An introduction to mass communication*. Bedford/ST MartIn's.
- Cave,D. and Saxton,A. (2020, August 26). New Zealand gives Christchurch killer a record sentence. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/26/world/asia/christchurch-brenton-tarrant-sentenced.html>
- Christchurch shootings: 49 dead in New Zealand mosque attacks. (2019, March 15). *BBC News*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-47578798>
- Duszak,A. & Fairclough,N. (2008). *Krytyczna analiza dyskursu: interdyscyplinarne podesjscie komunikacji społecznej*. [Critical discourse analysis: An interdisciplinary approach to communication]. Krakow: Universities.
- Fairclough, N. and Wodak, R. (1997). "Critical discourse analysis". In van Dijk, T. (Ed.), *Discourse studies: A multidisciplinary introduction*. Sage, 2, pp. 258-84.
- Gettleman,J. & Schultz,K. (2019, April 23). On a day of funerals in Sri Lanka, religious tension builds. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/23/world/asia/sri-lanka-bombings-burials.html>
- Ingber, H. (2019, March 19). The New Zealand attack posed new challenges for journalists. Here are the decisions The Times made. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/19/reader-center/new-zealand-media-coverage.html>



Janks, H. (2002). Critical discourse analysis as a research tool. Pp. 26-42. In *Critical discourse analysis*. Routledge.

Kuo, S.H., Nakamura, M. (2005). Translation or transformation? A case study of language and ideology in the Taiwanese press. *Discourse and Society*. 16(3), 393-417.

Laxman, S. & Kesslen, B. (2019, April 23). Sri Lanka bombings were retaliation for Christchurch shooting, defense minister says. *NBC News*.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/sri-lanka-bombing-was-retaliation-christchurch-shooting-defense-minister-says-n997391>

Marsh, J., Hollingsworth, J., Britton, B., & Starr, B., (2019, April 23). Sri Lanka fears international terror link to Easter Sunday atrocities. *CNN News*.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/04/22/asia/sri-lanka-investigation-easter-attacks/index.html>

Marthoz, J.P. (2017). Media on the front lines. In Marthoz. (Ed.). *A handbook of terrorism and the media*. UNESCO.

Metz, C. & Satariano, A. (2019, March 14). Facebook restricts live streaming after New Zealand shooting. *The New York Times*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/14/technology/facebook-live-violent-content.html>

NZ terrorist copied Norwegian mass murderer Breivik: report. (2019, March 19).

Daily Sabah. <https://www.dailysabah.com/asia/2019/03/19/nz-terrorist-copied-norwegian-mass-murderer-breivik-report>

Paltridge, B. (2012). *Discourse analysis. An introduction*. Continuum.

Rogers, R.; Malancharuvil-Berkes, E.; Mosley, M.; Hui, D.; and Joseph, G. O. (2005). Critical discourse analysis in education: A review of the literature, review of educational research, 75, p. 365

Schwartz, M. & Allam, H. (2019, April 23). ISIS claims responsibility for Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka. *NPR*.

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/23/716266428/sri-lankan-official-says-bombings-are-retaliation-for-new-zealand-massacre>

Seib, P. (2004). *Beyond the front lines: How the news media cover a world shaped by war*. Palgrave Macmillan.



العدد الحادي والأربعون

الجزء الثالث/تشرين الثاني/٢٠٢٠

جامعة واسط

مجلة كلية التربية

Sri Lankan Muslims remain anxious amid spreading violence. (2019, March 16).

<https://www.dailysabah.com/asia/2019/05/16/sri-lankan-muslims-remain-anxious-amid-spreading-violence>

Teo, P. (2000). Racism in the news: A critical discourse analysis of news reporting in two Australian newspapers. *Discourse and Society*.11(1), 7-49.

Van Dijk, T.(2001). *The handbook of discourse analysis*. Schifffrin, D., Tannen, D., & Hamilton, E., (Eds). Blackwell.

Van Dijk, T. A. (2006). Discourse and manipulation. *Discourse and Society*, 17 (3), 359-383.

Wodak, R. (2001). The discourse-historical approach. In Wodak, R. & Meyer, M (Eds.), *Methods of critical discourse analysis* (pp. 63–94). Sage.

Wodak, R. and Meyer, M. (2001). *Methods of critical discourse analysis*. Sage.

Zhang Y, Chen J.M, Miller J.R (2005). Determining digital hemispherical photograph exposure for leaf area index estimation. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 133 (1-4): 166-181.