

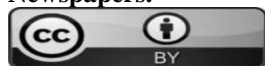


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**A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Representation of the Iranian Protests in Selected Newspapers****A B S T R A C T**

The present study is devoted to the analysis of the representation of the Iranian protests in selected newspapers. The protests in Iran are regarded as a turning point in the history of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The protests are of interest to many national and international newspapers who took the events into serious consideration. The study aims at investigating these events from the CDA point of view. It, however, intends to uncover the linguistic components, ideologies, and power relations employed in the selected reports. The study is qualitative in nature and is based on Fairclough's (2001) three-dimensional approach. Two reports from two newspapers; the Washington Post and the Tehran Times, are selected as samples of the current study. After analysing the selected data, it has been found that the two newspapers contain different linguistic features such as overwording, and lexical relations, besides that they encompass several ideologies and the representation of various power relations. These linguistic and non-linguistic strategies are utilised by the editors when addressing the Iranian protests. The American newspaper is assured to positively represent the protest and support them, while the Iranian newspaper is proven to negatively describe the protests and deny the protestors' rights in expressing their opinions and demands.

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تحليل خطابي نقدي لتمثيل الاحتجاجات الإيرانية في صحف مختارة

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المستخلص

الدراسة الحالية مكرسة لتحليل تمثيل الاحتجاجات الإيرانية في صحف مختارة. تعتبر الاحتجاجات في إيران نقطة تحول في تاريخ جمهورية إيران الإسلامية. الاحتجاجات محل اهتمام العديد من الصحف المحلية والدولية التي أخذت الأحداث بعين الاعتبار بصورة جدية. تهدف الدراسة إلى التحقق من هذه الأحداث من وجهة نظر تحليل الخطاب النقدي. ومع ذلك، فإنها تهدف إلى الكشف عن المكونات اللغوية والأيدولوجيات وعلاقات القوة المستخدمة في التقارير المختارة. الدراسة نوعية بطبيعتها وتستند إلى نهج فيركلف ثلاثي الأبعاد (٢٠٠١). تم تحديد تقريران من صحيفتي واشنطن بوست وطهران تايمز كعينات للدراسة الحالية. بعد تحليل البيانات المختارة، تبين أن الصحيفتين تحتويان على سمات لغوية مختلفة مثل الصياغة المفرطة، والعلاقات المعجمية، إلى جانب أنها تضم العديد من الأيدولوجيات وتمثيل علاقات القوة المختلفة. تم استخدام هذه الاستراتيجيات اللغوية وغير اللغوية من قبل المحررين عند تعاملهم مع الاحتجاجات الإيرانية. تم التأكد من ان الصحيفة الأمريكية تمثل الاحتجاجات بشكل إيجابي وتؤيدها ، فيما ثبت أن الصحيفة الإيرانية تصف الاحتجاجات بشكل سلبي وتكر حق المتظاهرين في التعبير عن آرائهم ومطالبهم.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الاحتجاجات الإيرانية ، تحليل خطاب نقدي ، الأيدولوجيات ، الاستراتيجيات ، الصحف.

1.0 Background to the Study

The situation in Iran, after Mahsa Amini's crisis, is considered the most critical event that has ever happened in Iran. The situation could be regarded as a turning point in the region of the Middle East. The protests in Iran are dealt with differently and different interpretations are given to the reasons that escalated such events. These events became the main interest of media, journalists and newspapers (Kohli, 2022). Therefore, the current study intended to conduct a Critical discourse analysis (CDA henceforth) attempting to investigate different newspaper reports regarding the events in Iran.

Various newspapers tackled the situation in Iran including national and international newspapers (Kohli, 2022). CDA is considered a field of study that combines different approaches to analysis which would be used for the analysis of the way people and institutions create discourse (Richardson, 2007). Slembrouck (2010) argued that CDA is seen as the link that could relate the concept of discourse to the social contexts in which it is produced by taking into consideration the way in which they support and complete one another. The language of newspapers is closely associated with the existence and production of social beliefs, ideas and points of view Richardson, 2007, p.1).

Fowler (1991.p.1) believed that the discourse of newspapers is defined as a collection of truths concerning different national and international events which are gathered and published in a certain form and style to be more authentic and attractive to the addressed community.

1.1. Problem Statement

Following the murder of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died at the hands of the morality police of Iran, civil disappointment in the country has reached levels never before seen. Demonstrators were demanding justice for Amini, as well as both political liberty and government responsibility. According to rights groups, the protests, which have extended to more than 80 towns in Iran, have resulted in numerous arrests, including many journalists, as well as violence against protestors. Internet access is restricted in Iran because the Iranian government carefully controls its use. Those studying the country's demonstrations predict that the movement will not go away very soon (Kohli, 2022).

Iranian people were outraged about a variety of problems, including the country's enforced modesty regulations, strong limits on people's political choices and expression, and the government's discriminating practices towards ethnic minorities. According to government arrest records, at least 1,200 individuals have been detained in the last three weeks, including 29 journalists, 20 activists, and 19 teachers (Kohli, 2022).

Newspapers, TV. Channels and social media have addressed the Iranian protests and have talked about the Iranian government practices against the protestors. These types of media used different ideologies and linguistic strategies in describing these protests. Therefore, the current study is dedicated to revealing the power of the political language, on the one hand, and to explaining the language of media and their use of expressions that are said to be ambiguous and some other expressions that have implied meaning. It is also devoted to the investigation and the direct and hidden ideologies which are adopted by these types of media and which make their language, somehow, difficult to be understood by common readers.

1.2. Research Objectives

The current study aims at:

1. Identifying the linguistic strategies which are used by online newspapers in their reports about the events in Iran after Mahsa Amini's Crisis.
2. Finding out the ideologies and perspectives which are adopted by the newspaper reports on these events.
3. Figuring out the similarities and differences between the linguistic structures of selected online newspapers in reporting the addressed events.

1.3. Research Questions

1. What are the linguistic strategies used by online newspaper reports to address the events in Iran after Mahsa Amini's Crisis?
2. What are the ideological perspectives presented in these selected online newspaper reports?
3. What are the linguistic and structural similarities and differences between the two newspapers in reporting the events in Iran?

2. Literature Review

2.1. Critical Discourse Analysis: An Overview

Before getting to exploring the discipline of Critical Discourse Analysis (henceforth CDA), one first needs to comprehend Discourse Analysis (henceforth DA) considering that CDA is an emerging concept when compared to DA.

The discipline of DA originated in the 1960s and is focused on the investigation of language usage. Bhatia (2008) claimed that this subject addresses the meanings that speakers assign to languages and the acts that language usage performs in specific situations. DA, contrary to popular belief, is not confined to the investigation of language at a particular sentence or sentence level, in addition to their arrangement and coherence; instead, certain separate sentences or phrases may be investigated as verbal acts or occurrences. Grammar, for example, teaches individuals the precise interpretation of this sentence: "Pronounce you husband and wife," but not the context of the situation where it signifies, "You are married"(Gee& Handford, 2012).

As Fairclough (1989) believed, critical linguists who adhere to Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics framework think that there are evident relationships between linguistics and social structures, implying that social meanings are essential for discourse to exist. However, those experts overlooked one key point: the relationship between language, power, and ideology (Alhousseini, 2020).

Zellig Harris (1952) is the first to use the word DA to describe a method for analysing writing and related speech. Harris had two primary areas of interest: the examination of language beyond the sentence level, and the discovery of the relationship between verbal and non-verbal behaviours. He researched the first of these two in-depth, seeking to give an understandable way to explain how language aspects are distributed in writing in addition to how these characteristics are blended in writings of various types and styles (Paltridge, 2012).

In terms of the relationship between DA and CDA, the latter is a fundamental problem-oriented interdisciplinary '. As a result, CDA does not focus on language unit analysis; rather, this method emphasises complex social phenomena that necessitate a multidisciplinary and multi-methodological approach (Wodak & Meyer, 2008).

Consequently, CDA is a relatively new discipline of linguistics that is devoted to exploring the relationships between social practices and discourse (Al-Majdawi & Jabi, 2020).

This method originated in the late 1980s and has swiftly evolved over the subsequent three decades to grow into one of the most prevalent methods in DA and social sciences (Wodak & Meyer, 2001).

The terms "critical language awareness" and "critical language studies," which Fairclough (1992) defined as "critical linguistics," are often used synonymously with CDA. Van Dijk (2006) claimed that several historians have debated the truths and principles relating to the founding of CDA as "discourse analytical research" and its evolution. Several of them have indicated that certain CDA characteristics may be found in the Frankfurt School critical theory. Around the outbreak of World War II in 1939, CDA underwent a significant

transformation. CDA began to focus on the realisation of the importance of language and discourse, which is introduced alongside "critical theory" (Van Dijk, 2001, p. 352).

According to Wodak (1995), language analysis includes an "emancipatory agenda" and critique. Since Michael Halliday's systematic functional and social semiotic linguistics served as the principal foundations that are suitable for those critical linguists' works, the contributions made by Kress and Hodge (1979) and Fowler, Hodge, Kress, and Trew (1979) are each regarded as having an opportunity to advance the field of critical discourse studies in the years to come.

The reason why Michael Halliday's linguistics technique is so crucial to CDA practices, particularly to Fairclough, is because it offers clear and accurate "linguistic Categories" that are significant for the analysis of shared connections and key links of each "discourse" as well as the "social meaning" (Hodge and Kress, 1988, p. 43).

The need for systematic functional linguistics for CDA is argued by Martin (Martin and Wodak 2003), who claims that "CDA should apply systemic functional concepts more systematically and consistently." But Fairclough (1992) demonstrates how CDA works from the perspective of the "Hallidayan" analysis of texts it offers.

According to Van Dijk (2003), CDA is a "discourse study with an attitude" because it is based on an analytical critical perspective, which is something that is presented in a variety of discourse research fields, including discourse grammar, conversational analysis, stylistics, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, pragmatics, rhetoric, narrative analysis, arguments analysis, multidisciplinary discourse analysis, and social semiotics, ethnography of communication.

CDA is described as "the relationship between language use and the political and social settings where it happens," by Paltridge (2012, p. 187). It examined whether texts are formed and affected by problems including gender, race, cultural diversity, ideology, and identity. A critical analysis could start with a thorough textual examination before moving on to clarification and interpretation of the findings. From then, it could move on to dispute and dissect the text or texts under consideration. This may entail identifying fundamental ideology in a document's linguistic qualities, dissecting specific prejudices and ideological presuppositions, linking the text to other texts and other people's experiences and opinions, and so on (Paltridge, 2012, p. 187)

2.2. Fairclough's Approach of CDA (2001)

One of the most important experts in the field of CDA is Norman Fairclough. In his thoughts, language shapes our social identities, knowledge, and opinions, and is likewise shaped by each of these variables. Discourse analysis, according to Fairclough (1989), is a disciplined approach to the study of discourse that sees "language as a form of community practice" (p. 20).

The discourse is placed in a significant social relations framework by Fairclough's CDA methodology. According to Fairclough (1992), this method linked the analysis of text, the creation of texts, and the interpretation of text with the social practice of discourse occurrences. According to Chuliaraki and Fairclough (1999), CDA serves as the link between

linguistics and social sciences. Fairclough (1989, pp. 26–27) established three stages for CDA with respect to this regard:

2.2.1. Description Stage

According to Fairclough (2001), critical analysts ought to focus on the texts as well as how they interact with one another, with the processes of production, and with their social surroundings. He established four basic categories for text analysis in 1992: "vocabulary," "grammar," "cohesion," and "text organisation." He gave each of them a thorough description, as seen below:

2.2.1.1. Vocabulary. According to Fairclough (2001), the experiential value is a clue to how the text producer's experience in the natural world is described. This element focuses on the way that language is used to code ideological distinctions across texts as follows:

1. Overwording: According to Fairclough (2001, p. 96), there are a lot of languages and numerous virtually identical phrases. Overwording "shows a preoccupation on a particular aspect of reality - which may indicate that it is a focus of ideological struggle".

2. Lexical Relations: Synonymy, hyponymy, and antonymy are the three main types of meaning relationships. The term "synonymy" describes terms with similar connotations. According to Fairclough (2001, p. 96), "meaning relations like synonymy can often be regarded as relative to particular ideologies; either the ideology being creatively generated in a text or the ideology being embedded in a discourse type." He said, "Antonymy is when the meaning of one word is incompatible with that of another, and hyponymy is when the meaning of one word is included in the meaning of another word."

3. Metaphor: "Metaphor is a way of expressing one element of experience through the lens of a different one," according to Fairclough (2001, p.99). It is not just restricted to literary or poetic speech; it may be used in any sort of interaction.

2.2.1.2. Grammar. According to Halliday (1971), the distinctive structure of each language's grammatical system is closely tied to its social context. Grammar describes the arrangement of words into phrases, clauses and sentences. Additionally, Fairclough (2001) demonstrated how experiential significance is reflected in the manner in which that language's grammatical elements code interactions in the real world and how individuals are implicated in these links with their time and space circumstances. This value encompassed a number of ideas, including:

1. Nominalisation. Fairclough (2001, p. 103) described this process as "the act of being transformed into a noun (or a multiword compound noun)". Furthermore, the use of passive verbs in nominalization allows agents to be obscured. The action's agent is either totally or partially neglected in passive statements. Nominalization differs greatly from the straightforward extraction of the agent. In the former, the agent is concealed, but in the latter, it becomes a word (Machin & Mayr, 2012).

2. Passive and Negative Sentences. According to Fairclough (2001), the negative structure is familiar with significance and is seen as the primary means of differentiating what is actually the problem from what isn't. The relational importance of grammatical attributes would examine words like pronouns and modes. These are thoroughly examined as follows:

3. Mode. Three fundamental modes are identified by Fairclough (2001): declaratives, interrogatives, and imperatives. S is placed before a V to structure declarative sentences. There are many other kinds of questions, including those that begin with "who," "what," or "when," as well as ones that begin with "verbs," which adds to their complexity. They're known as Yes-No questions. In addition, the addressee is the recipient of the information in declaratives and the subject is the information giver. When using imperatives, the speaker makes a request while the addressee acts as the complainant. Last but not least, in inquiries, the addressee provides information in response to the speaker's request.

4. Using 'We and You'. Fairclough (2001) argued that the use of pronouns like "we" and "you," corresponded with authority and cooperation relationships. They possess sure relationship-based values, such as "the so-called 'inclusive' we, inclusive of the reader as well as the writer, as opposed to 'exclusive' we, which refers to the writer (or speaker) plus one or more others but does not include the addressee(s)" (Fairclough, 2001, p.106). This pronoun conveys the strength of oneness. Additionally, it conveys unity when "you" is used in communications regardless there are real addressees who are unknown to the producer. (Fairclough, 2006).

2.2.2. Interpretation Stage

According to Fairclough (2001), the relationship between the discourse's creation and consumption has to be understood. Furthermore, discourse is seen as both a discursive action and a text. This meant that in addition to evaluating language details and text structure, special attention must be paid to intertextuality and assumption. According to Fairclough (2001, p. 118), "the fundamental resemblance between whatever the analyst does and what participants do." This phase focused on the practices used by participants to create the text as well as its interpretation.

2.2.3. Explanation Stage

According to Fairclough (2001), the purpose of this level is to characterise discourse as a component of the social procedure and social practice and to demonstrate how social structures influence it. Because people's speech and writing are always influenced by their social context, he thought that linguistic phenomena are social in nature. Additionally, he believed that social phenomena are linguistic in nature since language usage in social situations is not only a mirror of social behaviours and practices, but rather an integral element of them. For instance, disagreements over the interpretation of political utterances are a common and ongoing feature of politics (Fairclough, 2001, p. 19). Occasionally, individuals formally debate the definitions of terms like "democracy," "nationalisation," and "terrorism."

At this level, it's important to consider speech as a component of societal disputes with the system of power relationships. In this level of study, Fairclough focused on two important and interconnected concepts: power and ideology. According to Fairclough (2001, p. 2), "the use of power, in contemporary society, is increasingly accomplished via ideology."

It's fascinating to note that Fairclough (2001, p. 36) distinguished between two types of power: power in discourse and power behind discourse, noting that "power in discourse as a form of social practice is exercised in various ways - for example, in face-to-face

encounters" while "power behind discourse" represents the realisation of social activity arrangements that are formed and organised in accordance with power relations. Furthermore, Fairclough emphasised that no one or social group can ever own power since it can only be used in and with social conflicts in which it may also be lost. He noted that "power relations are always relations of struggle" (Fairclough, 2001, p. 28).

In the intellectual examination of the modern world and the political struggle over it, the relationship between language and power is crucial. Further assurance is given that "language has grown into a more significant component of social life" (Fairclough, 2001, p.204).

3. Methodology

CDA is discussed by Fairclough (1995, p.132) as a methodology utilised in many discourse studies to give a full correct analysis and assessment of how language is used to explain and describe a situation. It seeks to investigate and assess the lexical and linguistic forms used in conversation, as well as the manifestation of the structure and context of texts (written and spoken) that are integrated and formed in discourse for receipt and interpretation by listeners. As a result, such an approach allows such evaluation based not just on linguistic components of discourse, but also on how "discourse" is processed as it is formed, circulated among persons, and finally appraised and understood (Nakhilawi, 2016).

Moreover, a research design is defined as a "plan" or "strategy" for research inquiry or a method by which research study issues and difficulties are addressed throughout the research evaluation (Creswell, 2014, p.22).

Furthermore, the current study employs a qualitative research approach, which produces more "dependable" comprehensive correct replies to research questions (Ary, Jacob, and Sorensen,2010, p.29).

The corpus of the current study is comprised of sixteen newspaper reports about the events in Iran after Mahsa Amini's crisis, which represent various ideas and perspectives about the Iranian political system and political circumstances. The reports are chosen from two newspapers; the Washington Post "WP" an American newspaper and The Tehran Times "TT" an Iranian newspaper.

The major subject addressed in the reports chosen from these newspapers is the issue of Mahsa Amini. Jina ("Mahsa") Amini, a young Kurdish woman from the Kurdistan Province of Iran, is visiting Tehran with her family on September 13. The analysis is based on eclectic model that includes Fairclough's (2001) three-dimensional approach and Van Dijk's (2006) ideological strategies.

4. Data Analysis

4.1. Analysis of the Washington Post Report

“We want them gone’: Across generations, Iranians struggle for change”

This report is propagated by Sanam Mahoozi on October 6, 2022, at 12:23 p.m. The analysis of this report went on three stages; the description, interpretation and explanation stages.

4.1.1. Description Stage

In this part of the analysis, the researcher dealt with the linguistic components of the report such as vocabulary and grammar. The first element of vocabulary that is dealt with is overwording. Overwording referred to words that somehow share the same connotation. The overworded term in this report is “change the regime”. Such a term overworded several times including; “*we want them gone’, Iranians struggle for change, Freedom, anti-government movement, death to the dictator, demolish this regime, death to Khamenei, the regime must change, protesters across Iran are fighting for freedom*”. These expressions are used by the editor to show the insistence and determination of the protesters to change the Iranian regime.

The report, moreover, is noticed to include forms of lexical relations. Synonyms are found in this report, such as; *struggle, rage, loathing, nothing left to lose, anger, frustration, determined, turmoil, depressed, melancholy and death*”. The editor depended on these utterances to describe the Iranian people’s feelings towards their regime and the political leaders in the country. Those people are described to have negative feelings and hatred towards the political system in Iran.

Extract (1)

“Iranians struggle for change...avoiding the more aggressive slogans calling for the downfall of the government...the repression has not crushed the movement...The breaking point is near in Iran”.

The grammatical structure of this extract included some components. These components include nominalisation which is represented in the words “*avoiding*”, “*calling*” and “*breaking*”. The extract above is assured to include different forms of nominalisation in which the editor focused on the event rather than on the doer of the event. Such concentration of the events showed the interest of the editor in these events and their importance for the situation in Iran.

Extract (2)

“It didn’t matter. Anti-riot police soon swarmed the campus...You don’t feel the revolutionary rage as much in the mornings...She doesn’t consider herself a political person...”(Sanam Mahoozi, 2022 para.12)

The other grammatical component that existed in this extract is negation. This phenomenon could be seen in the extract above. This extract is noticed to include negative structures. Such forms of structure are employed by the editor in his attempt to confirm the Iranian security forces’ actions against the protesters. The editor expressed how the Iranian

people are prevented from expressing their demands freely and they usually get killed or arrested if they protest against the regime.

Extract (3)

“Demonstrators are being shot at and beaten...she related how her son had recently been hit by a bullet...knowing he could be killed or injured...the violence unleashed by the government” (Sanam Mahoozi, 2022 para.9,10,11,12)

Concerning passive voice in this report, the editor adopted this strategy for some purposes. This strategy is represented in the extract above. The use of passive structure in the extract above is assured to be for concentration. The editor expressed his concentration on the act of shooting, hitting, beating, killing and violence unleashing that the Iranian regime followed to confront the protests.

4.1.2. Interpretation Stage

The investigation of the text, in this stage, is mainly concerned with exploring the ideologies that are employed in producing and comprehending that text. In the report at hand, the editor started the report with a clear announcement of the demand of changing the regime. the use of utterance *“we want them gone”* is used to show the protestors' determination and insistence on changing the regime. The editor agreed with the protestors and support them against the regime, this is obvious from his expression of the regime negatively. The editor focused on the acts of killing, beating and arresting the protestors by the security forces. Such concentration is realised to be a strategy used by the editor in showing how dictator and suppressor the Iranian leaders were.

4.1.3. Explanation Stage

Power relationships are proven to exist in the present report. The editor concentrated on the powerful sides of the Iranian crisis. The power of the regime is represented negatively by being a dictator that confiscates people's freedoms and deprive them of their rights. The editor focused on the power of the regime and showed how such a regime is powerful to confront the protestors and prevented them from making any chaos in the country.

In the report at hand, the editor represented the protestors as brave and powerful and that do not fear the regime. The protestors are described to be ready to sacrifice their lives and everything they have to have the change they want. The protestors are seen to have a powerful hope to gain the change they demand. The young protestors are found to be supported by their mothers to participate in the protest. The mothers are noticed to believe that there will be no future for the next generation if the current protests do not gain change and the downfall of the present regime, this is stated in the report; *“His mother said she panics every time he leaves the house, knowing he could be killed or injured. “But I don’t want to stop him,” she said, because “then what kind of future are these kids going to have?”* (Sanam Mahoozi, 2022 para.12).

4.2. Analysis of the Tehran Times Report

“All under one flag: 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution marked from the Caspian Sea to the Persian Gulf”

This report is published by Soheila Zarfam on February 11, 2023 - 22:20. The report is analysed in three stages; the description, interpretation and explanation stages.

4.2.1. Description Stage

The linguistic characteristics of the report at hand are identified at this level of analysis. The linguistic features included strategies of vocabulary and grammatical elements. In terms of vocabulary strategies, the report included some lexical relations, the editor adopted certain synonymous words such as “*support of the Islamic Republic*” and “*stand by their government*”, “*the hardships of recent years*” and “*the harshest of times*”, “*unity*” and “*integrity*”. These synonymies are used by the editor in his attempt to manipulate his language and focus on certain issues by presenting more details on the same issues. Every time the editor used a synonymous expression, he is recognised to discuss the same matter in different ways a means. This is a strategy through which the editor wanted to highlight the importance of the matters addressed in the report.

the grammatical structures, the report is believed to include nominalisation and passivation strategies. Nominalisation is represented by the utterance “*Standing on an elevated podium before thousands of Tehran people...Referring to the brilliant achievements of the country*”. By using such a grammatical strategy, the editor concentrated on the events which are highlighted as being important issues. The editor did so by focusing on the issues rather than those who committed those issues.

Extract (1)

“The rallies are massively attended...which nullified the enemy’s propaganda that is aimed at driving a wedge between the state and society”.

Passivation strategy, on the other hand, could be determined in the above extract. The editor used passive structures in order to focus on discussing specific issues and events regardless of the doers of such actions. What attracted the editor’s attention is the rallies and their aims, he did not focus on the people who participated in these rallies.

4.2.2. Interpretation Stage

At this level, the analysis is concerned with figuring out the ideologies which are adopted by the editor in the production of the current report and which contributed to its comprehension. The editor depended on the strategy of positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation. She is found to focus on the good characteristics of the Iranian people and their support of the Iranian regime and the good characteristics of the regime itself.

Extract (2)

“The rallies are massively attended by people of all ages and ranks, which nullified the enemy’s propaganda that is aimed at driving a wedge between the state and society”.

In this extract, the editor positively described the Iranian people and their support of the state. She intended to show the relationship between the people and their government as good and positive. By such an ideology, she intended to refute the claim that the Iranian people started massive protests against the regime.

Extract (3)

“President Raisi stated that today is the manifestation of national unity, solidarity, integrity, epic and the presence of people in every part of the country”.

In the extract above, the editor highlighted the Iranian President’s insistence on the unity of the country. She described the way in which the president addressed his people which showed the close relationship between the people and the state. The editor considered the regime as a good actor that took care of the citizens and treated them well. She did so to disprove the rumour that the Iranian people wanted to change the regime.

Extract (4)

“Over the last four decades, the enemies of the Islamic Republic have done everything in their power to harm the Islamic Republic”.

This extract included a negative representation strategy. The editor, however, negatively described the enemies of Iran represented by the West. She considered the West as the direct enemy of the Islamic Republic and the main reason behind instigating the recent events in Iran. The editor presented the West as bad actors who sought the destruction of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

4.2.3. Explanation Stage

At this stage, the analysis is concerned with figuring out the power relations which are expressed in the report. These relations are presented in the following extracts:

Extract (5)

“The rallies are massively attended by people of all ages and ranks, which nullified the enemy’s propaganda that is aimed at driving a wedge between the state and society”.

At this stage, the analysis is dedicated to figuring out the representation of social relationships. The editor vividly focused on discussing the relationship between the Iranian regime and their people. The regime is described as a high power that worked on uniting the people under one flag. The editor concentrated on the power of religion and nationalism that united and integrated the Iranian people against any outside factors which would divide such a unity. By presenting such a relationship between the regime and the Iranian people, the editor wanted to disprove the claims that there are problems and crises between them. She wanted to refute these claims in order to reject the reasons behind the recent events in Iran.

5. Conclusions

After Analysing the selected data, it has been found the newspapers tackled the events in Iran from different perspectives. The editors depended on certain linguistic strategies and several ideologies to present their points of view regarding these events. They also described

some power relations which are proved to have an obvious influence on enhancing and escalating the events in Iran. The American newspapers is proven to represent the protestors positively and gave them the right to act the way they acted. The American editor depended on some linguistic and structural elements such as Overwording, lexical relations, particularly Synonyms, nominalisation, negation, passive voice, expression of the regime negatively and presenting the protestors as brave and powerful and that do not fear the regime. According to the Washington Post, the Iranian people have the right to demonstrate and demand a change of the regime. The Washington Post described the suppression and deprivation that the Iranian regime used against the Iranian people. This proved that the American Newspaper is against the Iranian regime and it supported the people's liberty and freedom.

The Tehran Times, on the other hand, is seen to attack the protestors and called them "rioters". The Iranian editor depended on some lexical relations such as synonymous words and some grammatical components like; nominalisation and passivation. The editor also focused on the good characteristics of the Iranian people and their support of the Iranian regime and highlighted the Iranian President's insistence on the unity of the country. The editor, however, negatively described the enemies of Iran represented by the West. The editor concentrated on the power of religion and nationalism that united and integrated the Iranian people against any outside factors which would divide such a unity

The Iranian Newspaper is found to deny the protestors' right in demanding their freedom and liberty. The protestors, according to the Tehran Times, are supported by foreign agendas that always wanted the destruction of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thus, the Iranian Newspaper is asserted to stand against the protests and accuse them of terrorism, violence, and of being a threat to the safety and stability of the country.

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