**A Critical Discourse Analysis of Hezbollah’s News in CNN and Al-Jazeera English**

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**ملخص البحث**

تتمحور الدراسة المتبناة بكونها تحليل خطابي نقدي لاخبار حزب الله في قناتين عالميتين وهما السي ان ان والجزيرة الناطقة باللغة الانجليزية. تهدف الدراسة الحالية الى البحث عن التراكيب اللغوية المستخدمة لكي توضح الايديولوجية المتبناة لكلتا القناتين عن طريق البحث عن الاستراتيجيات الاستطرادية بالإضافة الى البحث عن ماهية تصنيف الافراد ضمن-الفئة وخارجها.

لكي تتوصل الدراسة الى اهدافها، يطرح الباحث بعض الفرضيات: تستخدم التراكيب النحوية والدلالية والبلاغية بطرق مختلفة لكي تتوصل كلتا القناتين لغايات غير مرئية. ثانيا: توضح الايديولوجيات عن طريق الاساليب الاستطرادية المتنوعة والتي تستخدم بطرق مختلفة في كلتا القناتين لكي تخدم الايديولوجية الخاصة بكل منهما. ثالثا: تصنف كل من القناتين الافراد ضمن-الفئة الخاص بها وخارجها وهذا الاختلاف يؤدي الى اعتماد كلتا القناتين على ما يسمى بالدعاية الايجابية عن ضمن-الفئة وتلك السلبية عن خارج-الفئة. اخيرا، لكل قناة اسلوب استطرادي مستخدم اكثر من بقية الاساليب الاخرى.

تتبع الدراسة نموذجا انتقائيا للتحليل والذي يتكون من مستويين. المستوى الأول يتمحور حول التركيب اللغوي، بينما يتمحور المستوى الثاني حول الايدولوجيات التي تعتمد على تحليل النص الايدولوجي المقترح من قبل فان ديك (1995b)، بالإضافة الى الرباعية الأيديولوجية (1998).

بعد اجراء التحليل توصلت الدراسة الى الاستنتاج بأن كلتا القناتين تتلاعب بطريقة استخدام اللغة، وذللك لخدمة ايدولوجية معينه بالإضافة الى تحقيق بعض الأهداف الخاصة. كما توصلت الدراسة الى ان القناتين تصنف الافراد الى فئتين لتخدم ايدولوجياتها.

وفي الختام تحتوي الدراسة على مقترحات للأعلام بان يتبع المصداقية في نقل الاحداث الخاصة بالحركات الإسلامية لان ذلك يؤثر على الإسلام والمسلمين بصورة عامة، خاصة ان الاعلام يعتبر كمراة عاكسة للإسلام في المجتمعات الغير مسلمه.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** تحليل خطابي نقدي، حزب الله، السي ان ان، الجزيرة الناطقة باللغة الانجليزية

**Abstract**

The current study carries out a Critical Discourse Analysis of news reports concerning Hezbollah in two global TV channels, namely, CNN and Al-Jazeera English. It aims to explore the linguistic structures and to show various ideologies through investigating different discursive strategies as well as the in-group and the out-group of each channel. In order to achieve the aims of this study, the researcher proposes some hypotheses: First, the grammatical structures as well as semantic devices are used differently in both channel in order to achieve implicit purposes. Second, various ideologies are expressed in various kinds of discursive strategies related to Islamic movements’ news in Al-Jazeera English more than CNN. Third, the in-group and out-group are different in both channels. Fourth, if the in-group and the out-group are different in each channel, this leads both channels to depend on propaganda in order to make a “positive self-presentation of the in-group” and a “negative other-presentation of the out-group”. Furthermore, each channel depends basically on one discursive strategy that is the most used one through reporting the news concerning Hezbollah. The study follows an eclectic model of the analysis, which consists of a micro and macro levels. According to the analysis of the selected news reports, the study finds out that the language of the news is manipulated in both channels in order to reach their own ideologies and to serve their different policies. The study concludes that both channels has its own in-group and out-group; and they try to reproduce the language of the news in a way that serves their ideologies.

**Keywords:** CDA, Hezbollah, CNN, Al-Jazeera English.

**1. Introduction**

Hezbollah is one of the important sensitive topics nowadays that faces the world. Some of the media addresses the movement as being a terrorist group while others show them as an armed militia. Media is a very important factor that could affect the audience views and thinking towards the topic, so it is worth to study how the media is affecting the audience and tries to put them on the same line of its ideologies and identities. This study tackles Hezbollah in two different channels, namely, CNN and Al-Jazeera English and shows how each channel reproduces the language of the news by using different linguistic structures as well as various discursive strategies in order to achieve their different ideologies. The implication of this study lies in identifying the discursive strategies as well as the linguistic structures that are used by both channels in order to find out the in-group and the out-group of both channels. Consequently, the reader will be able to see that most of the media genres are stating only a part of the truth and hide the bigger part in order to serve their own ideologies and policies. However, this study helps the reader to know and identify how the media in general is manipulating and re-structuring the news by reproducing it again and again till it fits out the perfect image that it would satisfy the media’s own ideologies and special interests.

**2. What is CDA?**

CDA, Critical discourse analysis, is a type of discourse systematic research that fundamentally investigates how social power abuse, dominance, and in-quality are arranged, replicated, and opposed by text and discourse in social and political contexts. With such dissenter investigation, critical discourse analysts take explicit position, and in this way need to comprehend, uncover, and at last oppose social imbalance (Van dijk and Kintsch, 1983: 35).

Fairclough (1993: 135) exemplifies CDA as follows: Discourse examination means to scientifically explore frequently links of causality and assurance between (a) Discursive strategies, occasions and texts, and (b) wider cultural and social relationships, structures and procedures; to investigate how such practices, events and texts rise out of and are ideologically shaped by relations of power and struggles over power; and to examine how the dimness of these associations between discourse and society is itself a factor anchoring dominance and power.

Moreover, Fairclough and Wodak (1997: 271-80) compress the principle significance of CDA as:

1. CDA researches social issues.

2. The relations of power are discursive.

3. Discourse establishes culture and society.

4. Discourse make an ideological work.

5. Discourse is true.

6. The association among texts and society are mediated.

7. Discourse examination is interpretative and useful.

8. Discourse is a sort of social action.

Correspondingly, Van dijk (1998: 362) states that CDA is worried about contemplating and examining written and spoken texts to reveal the discursive source of power, dominance, bias and inequality. It explores how these discursive sources are kept up and repeated inside specific social, political, and certain unique contexts.

Among the analysts who added to the advancement of CDA, Wodak, Fairclough and Van dijk are the most referenced and refered to in the critical analysis of media discourse (Wodak, 2002: 5).

Young and Harrison (2004: 3-4) propose that there are three primary elements of work in CDA. First, the incorporation work by Fowler et al (1979), Fairclough (1989), Fowler (1991), Hodge and Kress (1993), and is immovably grounded on linguistic analysis. A Second element, through which Van dijk's works are fundamental, concentrates on the "cognitive aspects of analysis" and "macro structure of texts". The third element includes works by Wodak and the Vienna School, through which a "discourse historical approach is taken" (ibid).

CDA is not so much a heading, specialization or school, by the numerous other "methodologies" in discourse contemplates. Rather, it plans to offer an alternate "mode" or "point of view" of hypothesizing, investigation, and application all through the entire field. There is a possibility to find a pretty much straightforward opinions in such contradictory regions as "pragmatics, conversation analysis, narrative analysis, rhetoric, stylistics, sociolinguistics, ethnography, or media analysis, among others" (Van dijk, 2008: 352).

Van dijk (ibid: 353) states that any research on a Critical discourse needs to fulfill various requirements in order to achieve its aims:

1. As is regularly, the situation for further minimal investigation traditions, CDA has to be "better" than other researches with a specified end goal to be reached.

2. It focuses basically on, societal problems and political matters, as opposite to present ultimate models and schemes.

3. Empirically adequate critical research of social problems is generally multidisciplinary.

4. It does not just describe discourse structures, but also it attempts to simplify them as far as properties of social cooperation are concerned and mainly social structure.

5. More principally, CDA focuses on the techniques discourse structures authorize, affirm, realize, imitate, or challenge relations of dominance and power in the public eye.

**3. Hezbollah**

Hezbollah is "a political and militant Shi'ite Muslim group based in Lebanon. Hezbollah, whose name means “Party of God” in Arabic, was founded in 1982 following Israel’s invasion of Lebanon in the First Lebanon War" (Web source).

**4. The Eclectic Model of the Analysis**

The current study analyzes selected news reports on two levels: the micro level and the macro one.

At the micro level, a micro linguistic level is adopted by including three other sub-levels, namely, syntactic, semantic, and the rhetorical level.

On the other hand, the macro level consists of micro ideological level, which is related to Van dijk "Ideological Discourse Analysis" (1995); and a macro ideological level, that is related to Van dijk "Ideological Square" (1998), which is adopted in order to reveal the polarization in the news of the both channels in regard to "positive self-presentation" and "negative other-presentation". The following sections present these notions in detail.

**4.1 The Linguistic Level**

**4.1.1 The Syntactic Level**

The syntactic level is basically concerned with passivization, nominalization, and modality.

**4.1.1.1 Passivization**

Quirk et.al, (1985: 159) mentions that voice is a syntactic category which makes it possible to show the sentence in two distinctive shapes without changing the truth detailed. For instance:

-"The butler murder the detective (Active)"

-"The detective was murdered by the butler (Passive)" (ibid).

Moreover, the changing from the active to the passive includes rearranging the clause components, and "by" is added. These changes are: (a) the subject of the active shifts to be the object of the passive or it may be deleted, (b) the object of the active turns to be the subject of the passive, and (c) the addition of the preposition "by" before the agent which is considered as an optional component (ibid: 159-160).

**4.1.1.2 Nominalization**

Fowler et al (1979: 14) state that nominalization is "turning verbs into nouns". He adds that nominalization is a process by which the CD analysts can make use of it through their analysis. Thus, it is used for specific reasons, which are: (1) to omit the agent; (2) reifying; (3) suggesting reified concepts instead of the agents; and (4) continuing an unequal power relations (ibid).

According to Quirk et.al (1985: 1288), nominalization denotes to a noun phrase, which is corresponded in a systematic way with any clausal structure. In such a case, the head of the phrase is morphologically related to a verb or an adjective.

**4.1.1.3 Modality**

Quirk et.al (1985: 135-140), define modality as "the way in which the meaning of the clause is qualified to the decision of the speaker about the probability of the proposition". Many researchers investigate modality through exploring the meaning of model verbs. The highlighting elements of meaning in model verbs were divided into two sorts: those that involve people’s control on the action such as "permission", "obligation", and "violation". And those that are concerned with the people’s expectation of what is going to occur such as "possibility" and "prediction" And those that are concerned with the people’s expectation of what is going to occur such as "possibility" and "prediction" (ibid).

Fairclough (1989: 126) outlines modality as being related to the speakers' or writers' power, as well as, to the direction of this power.

Van dijk (2004: 183) explicate that modal verbs are either possible, probable, or necessary, that is, epistemic and others related to the underlying ideologies and attitudes.

**4.1.2 The Semantic Level**

 The current study is limited to negative lexicalization and disclaimer concerning this level.

**4.1.2.1 Negative Lexicalization**

By this strategy, a writer may choose lexical items, such as ‘extremists’, ‘terrorism’, ‘fear’, ‘militants’, ‘suicide bomber’, ‘jihad’, ‘resistance’ …etc., that have negative meaning in describing the others (Van dijk, 1995: 57).

**4.1.2.2 Disclaimer**

Van dijk (1995: 165) reveals that disclaimer is a subordinate strategy used to describe a negative prosperity of the out-group. He (ibid) shows an example of such an ideological strategy "we have nothing against blacks but…" in which the in-group is described in a positive manner or by rejecting a negative feature, whereas the central part highlights a negative feature of the out-group.

Furthermore, Van dijk (2004: 736) explains disclaimer as an ideological base that is related to self-positive representation and others-negative representation. This means that, on one face, it reveals the positive features of the in-group, while on the other face, it focuses on the negative characteristics of the out-group.

**4.1.3 The Rhetorical Level**

The rhetorical level of the current study is limited to hyperbole and metaphor.

**4.1.3.1 Hyperbole**

According to Leech (1968: 168), hyperbole is concerned with individuals' appreciations and feelings that make subjective cases which are overstated.

According to Van dijk (1995: 154), hyperbole is a description of an event or action in intensive exaggerated terms. For instance, terrorist attacks, are compared with a nuclear holocaust.

**4.1.3.2 Metaphor**

According to Van dijk (2013: 187), metaphor is a conceptual device that is used to express bad or good feelings and opinions by relating abstract notions to concrete experience of people.

**4.2 The Ideological Level**

The ideological level of this study is based on Van dijk’s the Ideological Discourse Analysis (1995), and also his concept of Ideological Square (1998). The following sections will present each of these two models in depth.

**4.2.1 Ideological Discourse Analysis (1995)**

This is a common technique in humanities and the social sciences. Its basis is that it could be conceivable, through "close reading, understanding or systematic analysis", to identify the implicit ideologies of the addressors (Van dijk, 1995: 135).

Through this model, Ideological Discourse Analysis is regarded as a type of discursive socio-political analysis, which targets to connect the constellation of discourse with those of the society. Consequently, the participants of a specified group influence the social structure by social communication. Thus, the social communication is the "theoretical interface" by which the "social and the discursive can come together" (ibid).

However, because of the fact that the ideologies are usually concealed and not stated explicitly, Van dijk (ibid) suggests a number of discourse strategies. The following sections will deal with the following concepts.

**4.2.1.1 Warning**

It is a strategy through which the addresser produces horrible terms to dismay their in-group towards the danger of the out-group. (Van dijk, 1995: 156).

**4.2.1.2 Norm and Value Violation**

By this strategy, the out-group is shown as being bad through showing how it breaks the beliefs and values of human beings. For instance, freedom of expressions, human rights, freedom of education, etc (Van dijk, 1995: 156-157).

**4.2.1.3 Presupposition**

Presupposition means "a speaker assumes in saying a particular sentence, as opposed to what is actually asserted" (Crystal, 2008: 384). This strategy is used as a technique in referring to the positive and negative presentations of the in-group and the out-group (Van dijk, 1995: 157). Though it is utilized in the procedure of removing ideologies from text and discourse. Yet, the more general (macro) strategy in this regard is the "positive presentation of the self and the negative presentation of the others" (ibid).

**4.2.1.4 Concretization**

Terms that could be imagined are utilized in order to address the actions of the out-group in a detailed mode that allows the addressees to imagine the situation, which is mostly negative, is a concretization strategy (Van dijk, 1995: 156).

**4.2.1.5 Negative Comparison**

This strategy indicates the act of opposing the in-group with a recognized negative person or group so as to emphasize the negative features of the out-group (Van dijk, 1995: 155).

**4.2.2 Ideological Square (1998)**

The ideological polarization may be realized by a huge diversity of customs for instance, the choice of lexical items that indicate positive or negative estimates, as well as in the structure of whole propositions and their classifications (as in *active/ passive*, etc.). This strategy of polarization comprises of "emphasizing our good properties/actions; emphasizing their bad properties/actions, mitigating our bad properties/actions; and mitigating their good properties/actions" (Kuo & Nakamura, 2005: 410). In short, the "ideological square" has four possibilities as follows:

1. "Emphasize positive things about *us.*"

2. "Emphasize negative things about *them*."

3. "De-emphasize negative things about *us*."

4. "De-emphasize positive things about *them*."

Thus, the ideological square summarizes the two strategies of positive "in-group" description and the negative "out-group" description. The double strategy of this dual opposition is often established in discourse by lexical choice and other linguistic features (Vandijk, 1998, as cited in Hakam: 2009).

Moreover, Van dijk (1993: 282) added a strategy that is used to represent the "other" in a negative light which is known as "negative other presentation".

The following figure illustrates the eclectic model of the analysis:

Syntactic Level

Modality

Passivation

Nominalization

Micro Analysis

Rhetorical Level

Hyperbole

Metaphor

***Figure (1). The Eclectic Model of the Analysis***

Disclaimer

Semantic Level

Negative Lexicalization

CDA

In-group

Ideological Square

Out-group

Overall Meaning

Macro Analysis

Presupposition

Ideological discourse Analysis

Negative Comparison

Warning

Norm and Value Violation

Discursive Strategies

Concretization

**5 The Analysis.**

In this section, the researcher analyzes (2) selected reports in terms of two levels, therefore, the micro and the macro (see 4). Table (1), introduces a summary of both channels’ reports as characterized in terms of their headlines, word counts, date, and the source of publication:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Headline** | **Word Counts** | **Date** | **Source** |
| Europe, name Hezbollah in terror  | 1024 words | February 8, 2013  | Frida Ghitis, Special to CNN |
| Bulgaria's Hezbollah 'hypothesis' and the EU terror list. | 1740 words | February 20, 2013 | [Gareth Porter](https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/profile/gareth-porter.html). |

***Table (1): A Summary of the CNN Report***

**5.1 Analysis of the CNN Report**

This report is entitled as “***Europe, name Hezbollah in terror***”[[1]](#footnote-1). This report is related to Hezbollah on one side and the European Union as sided with the United States on the other side.

**5.1.1 Passivization and Nominalization**

The **passive** voice marks (5) out of (43), which equals (10.4%) out of the total. The sentence "*the attack was carried out by two members of the Iran-linked Lebanese organization*", although the agent is being mentioned at the end, it declares that the action –the attack- and the receiver of the action are more important than the doer of the action, who is accused to be the two members of Hezbollah. In another sentence "*Over the years, it has been accused of carrying out attacks throughout the world, often in collaboration with Iran*" which represents that the focus is being given to the action of the verb and the receiver of the action rather than the doer himself, so this leads to a dangerous accusation that Hezbollah has to be put under the name of terror since it has carried out attacks throughout the world. Consequently, these sentences are originally active, but they were reproduced in passive by the channel in order to hide the agent or to shed the light away of it.

On the other side, active voice scores (43) out of (48) which equals (89.5%) out of the total. This number declares that the report has been written in a direct way, by using the active voice mostly, which represents the direct accusation to Hezbollah as being a terrorist group. Consequently, the sentences "*The bombing killed five Israelis -- including a pregnant woman -- and a Bulgarian driver*" and "*Bulgaria's foreign minister blamed Hezbollah*" declare that there is a direct accusation to Hezbollah as being the ones responsible for the attack, this led the foreign minister of Bulgaria to name Hezbollah in terror. In the sentence "*Paris has taken the lead in fighting extremism …But it is somewhat less relentless when it comes to Hezbollah*" shows that there is a direct structuring to consider Hezbollah to be a part of extremism and also, puts a sort of blame on Paris because it did not fight Hezbollah as being part of extremism.

Concerning the **nominalization** process, noun phrases such as "*bus attack*" , "*terrorist organization*", "*countless investigation*", and "*series of attacks*" are all originally clauses, but the channel reproduces such clauses as noun phrases in order not to make a reference to the agent. Thus, these noun phrases could be realized as (the people attack the bus), (people organized a terrorist group), (people investigate countlessly), and (people attack in a series).

**5.1.2 Modality**

**Modality** is used in this report for (4) different times. However, prediction is being used for three times while there is only one use of possibility all over the report. In the sentence "*The label would allow European authorities to freeze funds, control the travel of Hezbollah operatives*…", there is a sort of prediction that if the European Union will get Hezbollah’s name in terror list there, a thing that will make it possible to freeze funds, control the travel of Hezbollah operatives and to prevent more loss of life. Moreover, the sentence "*A firm Western stance against the group, however, could strengthen Lebanon's struggling pro-Western opposition, which blames Hezbollah for the assassination of many of its members*" declares the possibility of strengthen Lebanon's struggling pro-Western opposition because of Hezbollah assassination of many of its members.

**5.1.3 Semantic Level**

Concerning the **Semantic** level, this report consists of (5) uses of negative lexicalization, and (4) uses of disclaimer.

Regarding **negative lexicalization**, there are five uses of negative lexical items in representing Hezbollah in various places all over the report. The phrase "*terrorist organization*" is used by Washington to refer to Hezbollah, the thing which gives the audience an idea that the group is related to terrorism. Also, in the phrase "*heavily-armed militia*" brings about the word militia is a negative word since the group was labeled by Washington as ‘terrorists’ and the use of the phrase ‘heavily- armed’ gives the audience an idea that the group is just like a military. Moreover, the phrase "*extremism militants*" was negatively used to refer to Hezbollah. Furthermore, in the clause "*The circumstances … have all been* *murky*", there is a use of the word ‘murky’ which refers to the circumstances where Hezbollah was being accused to be related to Iran’s harsh economic sanctions from the West over its controversial nuclear program. However, there is also a negative lexicalization toward Hezbollah in the clause "*bitter opposition from Sunnis*" where there is a declaration to the audience that the group is hated by the opposed sect who is the Sunnis.

Furthermore, in the sentence "*Bulgaria blamed Hezbollah in bus attack, yet EU still won't call group terrorists*", there is a sort of **disclaimer** that although Hezbollah was accused of carrying out the attack, it still not going to be considered as a ‘terrorist’ group by the European Union. Moreover, the sentence "*Paris has taken the lead in fighting extremism in Africa… But it is somewhat less relentless when it comes to Hezbollah*" declares that there is a disclaimer of the Paris situation towards the group, that is to say, the writer wants to show that Paris is not taking any step towards Hezbollah although it fights extremism. Furthermore, in the sentence "*The circumstances of these assassinations have all been murky, but there is nothing vague about the bombing of buses full of tourists*", there is a reversal disclaimer when the writer shows that, although Hezbollah was integrated with Iran in "murky" circumstances and there surly should be an evidence which proves that they are responsible for the attack, but unfortunately, there is nothing vague about the buses bombing which may prove that the group is the one who should carry responsibility of the attack. Also, the sentence "*Europe wants to treat Hezbollah as a legitimate political organization, but the group's actions place it squarely outside the realm of legitimacy*" reveals that although Europe is trying to treat Hezbollah as a legitimate organization, yet Hezbollah’s actions will not let it treating it so.

**5.1.4 Rhetorical Level**

Regarding the Rhetorical level, there are (3) uses of metaphor, and (4) uses of hyperbole,

As far as **metaphor** is concerned, the writer uses the phrase "*heart of* Europe" in the sentence "*A most awkward and revealing situation has emerged in the heart of Europe*" to refer to the location of the terrorist attack and may be to the importance of the lands that happens to face the bombing. Also, the phrase “*an arm*” in the sentence "*Iran's Quds Force, an arm of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps*" refers to Iran’s Quds Force as being a part of the "Iranian Revolutionary Guard Crops". Moreover, the use of the phrase "*militant wing*" to refer metaphorically to the groups that are related to Hezbollah under the use of the word ‘wing’.

However, concerning **hyperbole**, there are three hyperboles as they are located in various positions all over the report. Thus, the phrase "*a most awkward and revealing situation*" declares an exaggeration regarding the description of the terror attack, since there are many other terror attacks that result in much more victims, but the writer of the report tries to exaggerate the event because Hezbollah was the accused one in carrying out the bombing attack. In another phrase, which is "*the worst terrorist attack*" there is also, a sort of exaggeration of the event could be for the same reason. Moreover, the clause "*the most potent terrorist organization in the world*" refers to Hezbollah in an exaggerated way, as the most potent terrorist organization all over the world.

**5.1.5 Ideological Discourse Analysis**

As far as the use of **discursive** strategies is concerned, this report of CNN consists of (3) uses of negative comparison, (4) uses of norm and value violation, (6) uses of concretization, (2) uses of warning, and also (2) uses of presupposition.

As far as the strategy of **negative comparison** is concerned, the sentence "*Washington… labeled Hezbollah a terrorist organization in 1995 after a series of attacks in Lebanon and elsewhere that killed hundreds of Americans*" declares that Washington has the right to label Hezbollah as a ‘terrorists’ group after claiming that those attacks in Lebanon and elsewhere are done by Hezbollah. Moreover, the sentence "*EU… worry about angering Hezbollah, fearing attacks on European peacekeepers in Lebanon or terrorist attacks on European soil*" reveals the reason why the EU is worrying in regard of Hezbollah, and the negativity of comparing the EU’s actions and Hezbollah’s ones, by which it is shown through the writer’s wording of the report towards the group. Furthermore, in the sentence "*as tensions have risen between Iran, on one side, and Israel and the West on the other, Tehran and its Lebanese ally have stepped up their activities to a feverish pace, targeting Israelis diplomats and tourists in India, Cyprus, Thailand and elsewhere*", there is a comparison between the actions of both sides, which reveals that those who are related to Hezbollah are ‘targeting’ Israeli people in many different regions of the world.

Concerning the strategy of **norm and value violation**, the sentence "*Those operations, according to countless investigations in a growing number of countries, include plotting and attempting to kill tourists, diplomats and others*" reveals that there is a violation of human rights by Hezbollah, as being accused of ‘plotting and attempting to kill tourists, diplomats and others’. Moreover, the sentence "*U.S. officials accuse Iran and Hezbollah… of conducting attacks against civilians around the world*" declares that Hezbollah and Iran are violating human right in the sense that they are being accused of conducting attacks against civilians. Furthermore, in the sentence "*The pattern is well established. Argentinean prosecutors accused Hezbollah of carrying out and Iran of planning and financing the worst terrorist attack in that country*", there is also an announcement that Hezbollah and Iran are both violating human rights through planning and carrying out deadly attacks on innocent people. In addition, the sentence "*Europe wants to treat Hezbollah as a legitimate political organization, but the group's actions place it squarely outside the realm of legitimacy*" presupposes that Hezbollah’s actions are violating the norms and values since they place the group outside the realm of legitimacy.

However, regarding **concretization**, this strategy is located in six different positions in the report. In the sentence "*the attack was carried out by two members of the Iran-linked Lebanese organization*", the reporter uses the phrase ‘Iran-linked Lebanese organization’ in order to refer to Hezbollah, which draws an image in the minds of the audience that Iran is a main supporter of this movement. Moreover, the sentence "*Hezbollah has been conducting business rather comfortably in much of Europe over the years, openly raising money for its operations*", there is a clear picture to the audience that Hezbollah is raising its money inside Europe without being controlled by the European authorities. Also, the sentence "*The label would allow European authorities to freeze funds, control the travel of Hezbollah operatives, and otherwise do what it can to prevent more loss of life*" declares that if Europe is going to name Hezbollah in ‘terror’, then it would have the authorities to freeze their ‘funds’, control their travel, and to prevent them from carrying out ‘terror’ attacks. Furthermore, the sentence "*Hezbollah operates in Lebanon as a powerful Shiite political party, social services organization and an intimidating, heavily-armed militia*" reveals that there is a use of specific terms, as they are being underlined in the quoted sentence, which enables the audience to imagine the situation by which Hezbollah is playing a powerful role in the area. In addition, the sentence "*It is funded by Iran and closely coordinates its moves with Tehran. Over the years, it has been accused of carrying out attacks throughout the world*" declares that there is a use of phrases that may show the relation of the group to Iran, a thing which presupposes that they are not only deeply related to Iran but also, they both –Iran and Hezbollah- are integrated together in carrying out attacks all around the world. And, in the sentence "*As long as Europe closes its eyes to this reality and allows the group to organize, fundraise and hold meetings, it is guilty not only of hypocrisy, but also of passive complicity in Hezbollah's attacks on innocent civilians*", there is a clear image, which was drawn by the report writer that Europe is standing on the same line with Hezbollah, since it does not take a position against it, and let the group to behave freely in the area, a thing which concludes that there is a passive role of Europe in the attacks on innocent people, which was carried out by Hezbollah as the writer has mentioned.

Moreover, as far as the strategy of **warning** is concerned, the sentence "*authorities in various countries have uncovered and disrupted nearly 30 different terror plots by Hezbollah or Iran's Quds Force*" reveals that there is a sort of warning of the danger of both groups in the sense that Washington has linked a big number of terror attacks to them; as if it warns the European Union of the groups’ danger at a time when it does not take a position toward them. Also, in the sentence "*Western experts… describes Hezbollah as the most potent terrorist organization in the world*", there is a strong accusation that Hezbollah is ‘the most potent terrorist organization in the world’ which presupposes that they are the most dangerous enemy in the world, and consequently, the western experts are trying to alarm Europe, as being the in-group, of the huge danger of Hezbollah, as being the out-group.

Regarding **presupposition**, the sentence "*It has strong support among the country's Shiite population and bitter opposition from Sunnis*" presupposes that people in Lebanon are basing their political views on a sectarian basis, by which Hezbollah is being hated by only Sunnis since it is a Shiite group. Also, in the sentence "*Paris has taken the lead in fighting extremism… But it is somewhat less relentless when it comes to Hezbollah*", there is a presupposition that Hezbollah is regarded, by the report writer, as one of those extremism groups.

**5.2 Analysis of the Al-Jazeera English Report**

The report headline is "***Bulgaria's Hezbollah 'hypothesis' and the EU terror list***"[[2]](#footnote-2), which is related to Hezbollah and Iran on one side and the US, Israel and the European Union on the other side.

**5.2.1 Passivization and Nominalization**

The **passive** records (8) sentences out of (71), which equals about (11.2%) out of the total. Accordingly, the passive sentence "*Karadzhova was sacked a few days after the interview was published… because she had revealed information that was not in line with what the conclusion the US and Israel wanted*" declares that the channel is trying to give focus on why the chief prosecutor, Stanella Karadzhova has been fired. The agent is omitted, thus there is no reference to who did sacked her, maybe because it is either unknown or not as important as the process of sacking is. Furthermore, the sentence "*That pattern was established nearly two decades ago with the US-Israeli pressure on Argentina to finger Iran in the 1994 AMIA bombing despite the absence of any evidence for such an accusation*" shows that there is an omission of the agent, because it has been previously mentioned in the as being the US and Israel. Consequently, these sentences are originally active ones but they were reproduced in the passive voice by the channel in order to shed the light away from the agent.

The active voice signs (63) out of (71), which equals nearly (88.7%) out of the total. Consequently, the sentence "*Bulgarian Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov made a public statement … that the government linked the … terror bombing of an Israeli tourist bus to Hezbollah*" declares that there is a direct accusation by the Bulgarian Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov to Hezbollah as carrying out a terrorist attack that killed a number of Israeli people. Moreover, the sentence "*The Obama administration wanted wording that would leave no one in doubt that Hezbollah was guilty of the crime*" shows that there is a direct reference to the agent, who is the Obama administration, which reveals that it does not matter whether Hezbollah was really involved in the attack or not as much it has to be named in the ‘terror’ list.

Concerning **nominalization** process, phrases such as "*terror bombing*" and "*terrorist organization*" are originally clauses, but they were reproduced as noun phrases by the channel in order to shed the light away of the agent. Thus, these noun phrases could be backed to be clauses again as in (people bombed …) and (people organized a terrorist…).

**5.2.2 Modality**

In regard to **modality**, this report consists of (11) uses of modal verbs in different positions all over the report. However, the possibility is being used for (4) times while the other (7) positions are occupied by the use of prediction. Moreover, the writer of the report did not use any sort of modal verbs that declares an obligation. Accordingly, the sentence "*That evidence should have yielded valuable information on the bomber's contacts before arriving in Bulgaria*" reveals that there is a sort of possibility that the bomber’s SIM card may add an important evidence to the investigation. Furthermore, in the sentence "*That would connect the bomber to North Africa and thus contradict the Hezbollah hypothesis*", there is a prediction that since the "*telecom firm Maroc Telecom serves essentially the entire North African region*" so, there is no relation between the bomber and Hezbollah which contradict the terror hypothesis.

**5.2.3 Semantic Level**

Concerning the **Semantic** level, the report consists of (2) uses of negative lexicalizations, and (3) uses of disclaimer.

Regarding **negative lexicalization**, there are two terms that are negatively used in describing Hezbollah. The first, is in the phrase "*terror bombing*", where there is a use of the word ‘terror’ to describe the attack of an Israeli tourist bus which was linked to Hezbollah by the Bulgarian Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetnove. And, the second is the use of the phrase "*terrorist organization*" in describing the same group.

Furthermore, disclaimer is also located in this report for three times as in the sentence "*Washington and Sofia agreed on a formulation that was remarkably weak in accusing Hezbollah but was enough for the US and Israel to use to push for listing Hezbollah as a terrorist organization*", there is a disclaimer that although the evidence was so weak to link Hezbollah to ‘terrorism’ but the US and Israel see it as ‘enough’ to accuse the movement as being ‘terrorists’. Also, the sentence "*Those bits of information obviously proved nothing about the political affiliation of the suspects, but they would eventually become the sole basis for a "hypothesis*" reveals that although the evidence is not enough for the ‘hypothesis’ but it will be used to affirm it and to label the Hezbollah in the ‘terror list’. Moreover, the sentence "*Although Bulgarian officials denied that they were pressured by the Obama administration on the outcome of the investigation, it is clear that the wording of Bulgaria's report on the investigation was under negotiation with Washington*" shows that, even though Bulgarian officials denied being under the US pressure, but still the wording of the Bulgarian’s report was revealing the opposed.

**5.2.4 Rhetorical Level**

Regarding the rhetorical level, there is an only (1) use of metaphor. However, the report does not contain any hyperbole.

Moreover, concerning **metaphor**, the phrase "*key piece*" is used to refer to an important evidence that is located in the scene of the crime which declares Hezbollah is not the responsible of the bombing but al-Qaeda.

**5.2.5 Ideological Discourse Analysis**

As far as the use of **discursive** strategies is concerned, there are (2) uses of negative comparison strategy, (5) uses of norm and value violation, (6) uses of concretization, and (2) uses of presupposition. The report does not make any use in regard to warning strategy.

As far as the strategy of **negative comparison** is concerned, the sentence "*Hezbollah has no known operational bases in North Africa, whereas al-Qaeda has a number of organisations operating in the region*" makes a comparison between the two groups in the sense of having a basis in the area because the investigations has showed that the SIM of the bomber is related to Africa, a thing which contradicts the Hezbollah ‘hypothesis’ as a ‘terrorist organization’. Also, the sentence "*It had pointed the investigation toward a region where al Qaeda - not Hezbollah - has strong organisational bases*" reveals that SIM has proved that al Qaeda not Hezbollah is the responsible one about the ‘terror’ attack in Bulgaria.

Moreover, regarding the **norm and value violation** strategy, the sentence "*the interview had not been approved… because she had revealed information that was not in line with what the conclusion the US and Israel wanted*" declares that there is a violation of the freedom of journalism. Thus, because she had revealed information that was not on the same line with the US and Israel, the interview had not been approved. Also, in the sentence "*the investigation was already enmeshed in the politics of US-Israeli determination to put pressure on the EU to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist group*", there seems to be a violation of the norms of investigations by the US-Israeli determination, in order to put pressure on the EU to make Hezbollah responsible about the terror attack, a thing that will certainly conform the ‘hypothesis’ against Hezbollah. Moreover, the sentence "*the wording of Bulgaria's report on the investigation was under negotiation with Washington*" declares that Bulgaria’s report was not truthful because there was a pressure by the US and Israel to make it in the form that they want. This shows that both of Israel and the US were in a position that violates the freedom of law. Furthermore, in the sentence "*the Obama administration used it aggressively to increase the pressure on the EU to list Hezbollah as a terrorist group*" there is, also, a declaration that the US is trying its best to put pressure on the EU, in order to name Hezbollah in ‘terror’. Additionally, the sentence "*it will be the first challenge to US-Israeli insistence on blaming their main regional adversaries for terrorist actions, even when the evidence points elsewhere*" declares that even though the evidence points to another group, the US and Israel insist on putting Hezbollah in ‘terror’.

However, concerning **concretization** strategy, the sentence "*Washington and Sofia agreed on a formulation that was remarkably weak in accusing Hezbollah but was enough for the US and Israel to use to push for listing Hezbollah as a terrorist organization*" reveals that the reporter is trying to show how weak the evidence was, in order to label Hezbollah as a ‘terrorist’ organization, but it was enough for the US and Israel to insist on the EU in order to name the group in ‘terror’. Also, in the sentence "*This Bulgarian conclusion has significantly increased the pressure on the European Union to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization*" there is a declaration that Bulgaria was on the same line with the US and Israel, thus, it is also trying to put pressure on the EU to conform Hezbollah ‘terror hypothesis’. Moreover, the sentence "*The result was language that telegraphed the absence of any real evidence of that Shia organisation in the crime, but which served the US-Israeli interests of getting Hezbollah listed as a terrorist organization*" also, reveals that although there was no evidence to accuse Hezbollah in the crime, yet the US and Israel are trying to get Hezbollah listed as a ‘terrorist organization’. Furthermore, the sentence "*Those bits of information obviously proved nothing about the political affiliation of the suspects, but they would eventually become the sole basis for a "hypothesis"* shows that although the discovered ‘bits of information’ are useless, yet they will be the basis to accuse Hezbollah of the attack and to label them as ‘terrorist’. In addition, the sentence "*The US and Israel thus continue a pattern of ignoring the actual evidence in high profile terrorism cases in order to advance their political interests in relation to Iran and Hezbollah*" declares the view by which the US and Israel are neglecting the high terrorism cases at a time when they are using their best political efforts to stand against Iran and Hezbollah.

However, in regard to **presupposition** strategy, the sentence "*But Karadzhova also revealed a key piece of evidence that clearly contradicts a Hezbollah hypothesis*" presupposes that there is no evidence to accuse Hezbollah of the attack, but the opposite, there was a ‘key evidence’ that contradict the proposed ‘hypothesis’ against the group. Moreover, in the sentence "*take proactive action... in order to prevent future attacks*" which was uttered by Obama’s counter-terrorism adviser, there is a presupposition that there will be future attacks by Hezbollah and the EU has to conform the ‘hypothesis’ in order to prevent such attacks.

**6. Results and Discussions**

 The use of passivization in the Al-Jazeera English report is a bit higher than in CNN’s as it is shown in the following table:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Channel**  | **Headlines** | **Passive** | **Active** | **Total** |
| **Freq.**  | **Raito** | **Freq.**  | **Raito**  | **Freq.**  | **Raito**  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CNN** | Europe, name Hezbollah in terror  | 5 | 10.4% | 43 | 89.5% | 48 | 40.3% |
| **Al-Jazeera English**  | Bulgaria's Hezbollah 'hypothesis' and the EU terror list. | 8 | 11.2% | 63 | 88.7% | 71 | 59.6% |

***Table (2): The Passivization in CNN and Al-Jazeera English***

 The table above shows the frequencies and percentages of passivization use in both channels. These percentages are illustrated in the following figure:

**Figure (2): The Passivization in CNN and Al-Jazeera English Report**

 The use of passivization in both channels declares that they are trying to hide the agent either because they want to shift the focus of the audience to the action of the verb, or that the agent is hidden for implicit reasons in order to achieve some unmodified ideologies.

 The use of modality in the Al-Jazeera English report is higher than in CNN’s report of about (47.7%), as it is shown in figure (3). However, Al-Jazeera English makes use of possibility more than CNN, while CNN uses prediction more than Al-Jazeera English. This reveals that CNN is more concerned about the future of Hezbollah especially in their existence and effect on the West. Frequencies and percentages are explained in the next table:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Channel**  | **Possibility**  | **Prediction**  | **Obligation**  | **Total**  |
| **Freq.** | **Raito**  | **Freq.**  | **Raito**  | **Freq.**  | **Raito**  | **Freq.**  | **Raito**  |
| CNN | 1 | 25% | 3 | 75% | 0 | 0% | 4 | 26.6% |
| Al-Jazeera English  | 4 | 36.3% | 7 | 63.6% | 0 | 0% | 11 | 73.3% |

***Table (3): The Modality in CNN and Al-Jazeera English Reports***

 Modality of both channels’ reports is illustrated in the following figure:

***Figure (3): The Modality in CNN and Al-Jazeera English Reports***

 CNN makes higher use of negative lexicalization, hyperbole, and Metaphor, while Al-Jazeera English uses disclaimer more than CNN. All of these devices are used in order to make a positive self-presentation of the in-group and a negative other-presentation of the out group. The devices that are used more by CNN, refer to the out-group more directly than disclaimer, this means that Al-Jazeera English is more sensitive in addressing the in-group and the out-group. The following table shows the frequencies and percentages of the semantic and rhetorical devices’ use of both channels reports:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Channel** | **Disclaimer**  | **Negative** **Lexicalization** | **Hyperbole**  | **Metaphor**  |
| **Freq.** | **Raito.** | **Freq.**  | **Raito.** | **Freq.** | **Raito.** | **Freq.** | **Raito.** |
| **CNN** | 4 | 25% | 5 | 16.1% | 3 | 42.8% | 3 | 27.2% |
| **Al-Jazeera English**  | 3 | 37.5% | 2 | 8.3% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 16.6% |

***Table (4): Semantic and Rhetorical Devices in CNN and Al-Jazeera English Report***

 For further illustration, see figure (4) below:

***Figure (4): Semantic and Rhetorical Devices in CNN and Al-Jazeera English Reports***

 All of the discursive strategies are used with an almost corresponding ranges in both channels, except the use of warning strategy. Thus, CNN makes use of warning strategy in order to warn the West of the danger of Hezbollah existence, while Al-Jazeera English does not make any use of this strategy. Frequencies and percentages of the use of discursive strategies in both channels, are shown in detail in the following table:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Channel**  | **Negative comparison**  | **Norm and value violation**  | **Concretization**  | **warning** | **Presupposition** |
| **Freq.** | **Raito** | **Freq.** | **Raito.** | **Freq.**  | **Raito** | **Freq.**  | **Raito** | **Freq.**  | **Raito** |
| **CNN** | 3 | 42.8% | 4 | 21% | 6 | 20% | 2 | 12.5% | 2 | 9.5% |
| **Al-Jazeera English**  | 2 | 40% | 5 | 19.2% | 6 | 22.2% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 11.1% |

***Table (5): Discursive Strategies in CNN and Al-Jazeera English Reports***

For further illustration, see figure (5) below:

***Figure (5): Discursive Strategies in CNN and Al-Jazeera English Reports***

 Furthermore, concerning the Ideological Square analysis, through the general meaning of both reports and the use of positive and negative items in the representation of Hezbollah as well as the West, the report of CNN shows that it consider Hezbollah as an out-group while the US and the EU as being the in-group. Al-Jazeera English report, on the other hand, declares that it regards the group as being the in-group and the West as the out-group; thus the general meaning of the report shows clearly that the channel is trying to defend the group in order not to get its name in terror list.

**7. Conclusions**

 Both CNN and Al-Jazeera English use the linguistic and the ideological strategies in a way that may serve each. Thus, throughout the study, the researcher concludes that both channels tries to manipulate the language of the news by reproducing it, in order to achieve their ideologies and identities. Therefore, the researcher recommends both channels not to manipulate the reproduced language of news, and to say the truth about Hezbollah’s actions and identity without including any subjective judgement or a personal opinion

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1. To read the whole report, check out <https://www.cnn.com/2013/02/08/opinion/ghitis-hezbollah-europe/index.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. To read the whole article, check out [*https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/02/201321810059550903.html*](https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/02/201321810059550903.html)*.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)