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An Investigation of Discourse Structure in The Media's Portrayal of the Film "Lady of Heaven"

ABSTRACT

This research studies the interaction between language structures in mass media by examining discourse structure. It suggests various ways to analyze how language may be used to characterize people, places, and events in media discourse. This study will try to understand the dispute regarding the British film "The Lady of Heaven" because of the representation it created of religious characters and the events within its images. It intends to describe the structure of the discourse analysis using van Dijk's 2008 approach to analyze the macro, super, and microstructures in the selected article, which can explain how the author has constructed the text and how language is used. This study adopts a qualitative analysis of one item retrieved from the official website of the independent newspaper (article). The findings prove that while the author can express his opinions using his own words, the use of structures should be considered as one way of manipulating the opinions of the public. Such studies have the advantage of helping you make sense of the text's structure.

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دراسة في بنية الخطاب في تصوير وسائل الإعلام لفيلم "سيدة السماء"

علي محمد حسن/ كلية التربية/ قسم اللغة الإنكليزية

المستخلص

تبحث هذه الدراسة في التفاعل بين هياكل اللغة في وسائل الإعلام الجماهيرية بفحص هيكل الخطاب. وتقتترح الدراسة طرقاً مختلفة لتحليل كيفية استخدام اللغة لوصف الأشخاص والأماكن والأحداث في الخطاب الإعلامي. وستحاول هذه الدراسة فهم النزاع فيما يخص الفيلم البريطاني 'سيدة الجنة' بسبب التمثيل الذي أنشأته للشخصيات الدينية والأحداث داخل صوره. وتهدف الدراسة إلى وصف هيكل تحليل الخطاب باستخدام نهج فان دايك لعام 2008 لتحليل الهياكل الكلية والفوقية والجزئية في المقالة المختارة، مما يمكن أن يوضح كيف قام المؤلف ببناء النص وكيفية استخدام اللغة. وتعتمد هذه الدراسة على تحليل نوعي لعنصر واحد تم استرجاعه من الموقع الرسمي للصحيفة المستقلة. وتثبت النتائج أنه بينما يمكن للمؤلف التعبير عن آرائه باستخدام كلماته الخاصة، يجب اعتبار استخدام الهياكل كوسيلة للتلاعب بآراء الجمهور. تتمتع مثل هذه الدراسات بميزة مساعدتك على فهم هيكل النص.

الكلمات المفتاحية: هيكل الخطاب، وسائل الإعلام الجماهيرية، سيدة الجنة، نهج فان دايك

1. Introduction

Language is powerful, but it doesn't function in isolated sentences. We string words together to build ideas, arguments, and narratives. This is where discourse analysis steps in, and within it, the fascinating realm of discourse structure analysis. This analysis delves into the hidden organization of text or speech. It is like examining the plan of a building and understanding how ideas are connected and presented to achieve a specific purpose. By separating this structure, we gain valuable insights (Machin, & Thornborrow, 2004).

The film "The Lady of Heaven" has gathered significant attention and debate. This analysis delves into the film's representation of religious figures and events through the lens of discourse structure analysis. By scrutinizing how the film constructs its arguments and stories, we can get a deeper understanding of the messages it conveys and the possible effects it may have on audiences (Why movie,2024).

Discourse structure analysis offers a framework for more understanding of how information is structured and presented in a text, including films (van Dijk, 1988). This approach allows us to classify key fundamentals such as; macrostructures that deal with the total organization of the film's story, including the sequence of events and the cause-and-effect relationships presented (Richardson, 2008).

Microstructures involve the way scenes and sequences are created, including the use of dialogue, framing, and symbolism (Fairclough, 2003); and superstructures that identify how different fragments of the film interact with each other to convey meaning. Generally, this analysis isn't just about technicalities. It sheds light on how language shapes meaning beyond the sentence level. Mohammed, A. & Abid Alkaream, E. (2024) on his paper says that the interpersonal relations of the participant characters in the research. It's about understanding the hidden architecture of communication, the unseen framework that guides us through the world of ideas. Ban (2022, 2) deals with a critical discourse analysis of the underlying ideology of Duchess Meghan Markle in her conversation with Oprah Winfrey in 2021 in one of the most important royal interviews since princess Diana's Panorama interview in 1995.

This study will explore the various methods of discourse structure analysis, delving into the tools that help us unlock the secrets of how language is organized.

1.1 Problem Statement

The film "The Lady of Heaven" has sparked controversy due to its portrayal of religious figures and events. So how the selected article utilizes its discourse structure to convey its messages and potentially influence viewers, particularly in a religiously sensitive context. The presented analysis aims to fill this gap by answering the following questions.

1.2 Research Questions

1. How does the film's thematic structure position viewers in relation to the events and characters?
2. How does framing contribute to the film's message about religion?
3. How do macro and microstructure elements work together to convey the crucial message?

1.3 Research Objectives

The study highlights the following objectives:

1. Analyzing how the film's thematic structure positions viewers in relation to the events and characters.
2. Identifying how framing contributes to the film's message about religion.
3. Examining how macro and microstructure elements work together to convey the central message.

1.4 Research Significance

This study contributes to a deep understanding of the film's role in media representations of religion and its potential to affect audience opinions. It also addresses the critical matter of how films could direct sensitive religious themes within the wider media area.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Discourse structure analysis

Rash (2012, p. 1) says modern discourse analysts deal with discourse. Foucault's (1969) view is that "a social practice that involves language production

beyond the creation of individual texts." Moreover, the analysis investigates the strategies and the linguistic realizations that are associated with a specific text. In general, discourse analysts are interested in investigating the texts and the developments of these texts in textual genres over time. The crucial aim of the development of CDA was interpreting political discourse. The essential goal of critical discourse analysts is how discourse maintains and reflects the structures of power in society.

Wodak, de Cillia, Reisigl and Liebhart (2009, p. 8) preserve the belief that discourse symbolizes a form of social practice that implies a "dialectical relationship between discursive acts and the situations, institutions and social structures in which they are embodied". Charteris-Black (2004, p. 30) points out that the relationship between social practices and discourse deals both ways because discourses are social practices, and social practices create discourses. Furthermore, analysts believe that people produce the discourse consciously in a way that suits their position and the impact they try to leave on the recipients and suits the relationship between producers and recipients.

Rash (2012, p.2) clarifies how ideologies affect discourse, especially ideologies which are related to political control, domination and discrimination, and power. The main interest of the analysts is to reveal the strategies that are used in discourse to manipulate and impose dictatorial views. Hence, CDA is criticized for the fact that analysts are interested mainly in the misuse of power and they focus on the signs related to them that lead to subjective and limited findings. O'Halloran (2007) mentions a more solid view of CDA which is that if CDA is not used merely to expose issues of social inequity; it can be used as an objective analytical tool. It can have a broader domain "concerned with highlighting the traces of cultural and ideological meaning in spoken and written texts"(p. 159).

As Baker et al. (2008, p. 279) put it, CDA provides "a general framework for problem-oriented social research." By using these patterns effectively, writers can help readers traverse the content and comprehend it. Discourse lacks the characteristics that discourse is meant to have. Crystal (1992), for instance, defines "discourse" as "Discourse: a continuous stretch of (especially spoken) language larger than a sentence, often constituting a coherent unit such as a sermon, argument, joke, or narrative."

2.2 Socio-Cognitive Approach of van Dijk

An utterance is generally a single continuous speech fragment that is longer than a phrase. Construct a unit, for example, a story, a joke, an argument, or a preaching. According to Van Dijk, in his thesis, a speech may be an accusation, a question, a statement, or a threat. Words can differentiate or persuade individuals who have been discriminated against (Van Dijk, 2008).

Discourse analysis is a new and old field. Its ancestry goes back more than 2,000 years to language studies, literary studies, and public speaking studies. The art of rhetoric or classical rhetoric is undeniably one of the main historical sources. Well said. While the grammatical and historical founders were concerned with the normative criteria of correct usage, linguistic rhetoric tackled the discipline of rhetoric-the principles for the grouping, architecture, and individual operation of language. An utterance is any stretch of continuous speech that is longer than a sentence.

Discourse analysis is concerned with examining the relationship between Language and the context in which it is used. Discourse analysts study language In use: various written texts, such as language in conversations and spoken (Van Dijk, 2008). The description of van Dijk's structures is illustrated in the following table.

Table 1

Discourse Structures	The Objects	Elements
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Macro Structure	Thematic	Topic
Super Structure	Schematic	Scheme
Micro Structure	Semantic	Setting, detail meaning, pre assumption.
Micro Structure	Syntaxes	Sentence form coherence
Micro Structure	Stylistic	Lexicon
Micro Structure	Rhetoric	Graphic, metaphor, expression

2.3 The Representation of The Lady of Heaven in Media

Let's talk about what happened after the movie Lady of Heaven was shown in cinemas. It caused a great stir and there were many reactions, but unfortunately most of the reactions were very negative. On December 24, 2021, an article was published on the famous British website 5Pillars entitled Lady of Heaven: pure, unadulterated. Sectarian filth He talked about why “Our Lady of Paradise” is considered a “sectarian” film, leading to tensions between Sunnis and Shiites, and explained how the film presents sectarian narratives. The article included that a film with a budget of \$15 million, and over a period of more than two hours, the film presented extremist sectarian narratives, Most Muslims find the depiction of the Companions shocking. He also said that the film is extremely racist, as it portrays negative roles in the work through black-skinned actors. What is more, the film directly insults the Prophet (PBUH) by showing his face. Its showing has been banned in many countries. Islamic countries, especially the countries of the Middle East. (Lady of Heaven pure unadulterated, 2022)

Moreover, on June 15, 2022, an article was published on the Al-Mayadeen satellite channel website entitled Lady of Paradise: A British film that insults Muslims and fuels strife. The English film, The Lady of Heaven, is not equivocal in its seditious and insulting goal to the Islamic religion. Rather, it goes deep in its provocation of feelings in the hope of violent reactions. We see all of this while the tape begins its beginning by indicating that it respected and observed everything that

is sacred to Muslims. And that he blurred the holy faces with shots in which certain lighting was used so that they do not appear completely clear. However, this statement quickly falls into disuse as all the faces appear clearly, in addition to the voice of the Holy Prophet.

However, the film contains a torrent of slander and insults against the Islamic religion and its Prophet and focuses on the narrations. Its historical validity is contested or is not recognized by the vast majority of Muslim scholars, and it is presented in a direct way and without professional cinematic language. In the Islamic world, some countries have banned it, or considered it an insult to Islam, and these countries include: Morocco, Egypt, Pakistan, Iran, and Iraq (Salih, 2021)

Besides, it was published on Thursday 9 June 2022 on the British Sky News channel website "Why is The Lady of Heaven so controversial?" across the UK and petition signed by 120,000 people lead to film being pulled from some cinemas. The different schools of the religion have different views on this, and it is mainly Sunni Muslims who have strongly criticized the film, saying the plot does not accurately portray historical events.

Vue, Showcase, and Cineworld cinemas were due to screen it; the latter axed all its screenings citing the safety of staff and customers. Why is the film so contentious? The depiction of Muslim prophets on screen and in art has always been contentious. However, the film propagates a "false narrative of the early caliphs of Islam... of them being terrorists," Shahid Ali said, an Imam who led a protest against the film in Bradford. "These people are revered by the overwhelming majority of the 2 billion Muslims worldwide," he said to Sky News "If they are portrayed as terrorists in this divisive, inflammatory, and inciting movie, then Muslims who naturally love and revere these figures, who are founding figures of our religion, this creates an impression in the viewer - especially those who have little or very little knowledge of Islam - that the central figures of Islam are indeed terrorists, and all Muslims who

revere and honor them are similar. (Why is The Lady of Heaven so contentious in 2022?)

3. Methodology

The study is implemented qualitatively. The researchers employs van Dijk's (2008) method as the main framework of analysis. Van Dijk combines his socio-cognitive approach with discourse structure analysis to analyse texts especially media texts. As a matter of fact, experts have Various models of discourse analysis were developed. In Elia to Discourse Analysis, he introduces the latest discourse analysis model developed by Roger Fowler and his friends Theo van Leeuwen, Sara Mills, Norman Fairclough, and van Dijk. A model of discourse analysis from Van Dijk is a model most commonly used in the field because it underlines elements of the expression. It's also straightforward to use. He frames discourse analysis through his work into various structures. Van Dijk divides those structures into three levels; macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure (Van Dijk, 2008)

2.1. Data Select

The data are collected from one article "The Independent newspaper 2022". The selected Newspaper (article) is related to the theme of the British film "the lady of heaven". This newspaper is selected from the same country (Britain) in order to show the reactions to this film from the audience of the original place.

3.2 Method and Materials

Van Dijk's framework of analysis is illustrated below:

3.2.1 Macrostructures

While dissecting individual words, sentences, propositions, and paraphrases, a discourse's macro structure can be observed by looking at the subject matter. Thus, by observing a topic, it may be simpler to reduce the global or universal meaning of a text. Like The overarching theme in BBC's reporting is that Putin's speech is confrontational and escalatory.

- Example: Headlines like “*Putin’s Defiant Speech Raises Tensions with the West*” emphasize this theme.

In order to make a topic easier for people to read, the author must make the subject as engaging as possible. According to Van Dijk, a discourse subject is a macro structure. Topic- Either the writer or the reader can be implying the issue or the communicator's solution to the issue. Example: Thematic object of the element is a concentration on the question, "What is said?" (Van Dijk, 2008).

3.2. 2 Superstructures

The discourse sketch or superstructure is the organization of all the elements and structures in the text. The most important element that is integrated into the superstructure is the schematic. The book is structured based on broad categories, like introduction, content, problem limitation, and conclusion, and it defines a general shape. Example: With the schematic as the element's object, focus on the question, "How an argument is structured?" Van Dijk (2008)

3.2.3 Microstructures

A discourse can reveal its microstructure if each word, sentence, statement, and paraphrasing are considered. Microstructure is made up of semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetorical aspects. Example: The question "How and what is the way the pressure is done?" is the primary focus of rhetoric, one of this aspect's functions. Let's refer to the table below. Since the objects mainly focus on language study, most of the elements are featured on the micro structure as evidenced by the table (Van Dijk, 2008).

4.	Data	Analysis
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The data are selected from one article to discuss the British film “the lady of heaven”

4.1 Macrostructures

(Difference and division in religious schools)

Negative side. Criticism is the subject of this article, as Islamic schools differ based on their depictions of the Prophet Muhammad and some religious figures. Most Sunni Muslims believe that all images depicting the Prophet Muhammad should be banned, while Shia Muslims generally accept such images as long as they are produced in a respectful manner.

4.2 Super structures

(Malik Shlibak claimed that he has received death threats)
The producer initially received death threats and liquidation, so he decided to withdraw the work from the world of cinema.

(The depiction of Islamic prophets in film has long been a controversial topic)
Comment on the image of holy religious figures in the film such as Prophet Muhammad and Sayyida Fatima, may Allah be with them, because according to Sunni sects, showing images of the Prophet and Sayyida Fatima is considered It is absolutely not allowed and although it is normal for Shiites, all details of Ahl al-Bayt must be respected under certain conditions.

(we have made the decision to cancel upcoming screenings of the film nationwide)
Due to the recent protests caused by accidents, a Cineworld spokesperson announced that the screening of the film will be canceled to protect the safety of employees and customers.

4.3 Microstructures

Many concepts are discussed as follows:

4.3.1 Semantics:

Freedom of expression should not extend to discussion of religion,

Yes, this sentence is very expressive and short for those who criticized or protested the film. This means you have no right to abuse free speech or insult religious figures and the beliefs of others. Each denomination has its own symbols, and you must respect and accept them. You can make your series and movies

whatever you want without inciting hatred, racial or religious racism in anyone.

4.3.1

Stylistics:

The article was written formally.

5. Findings and Discussion

The theme is the negative side of the film, namely the criticism and uproar caused after its screening, as the character of the Prophet Muhammad and his companions has been portrayed and embodied differently by Islamic schools, making each Islamic school have different opinions on the character of the Prophet Muhammad and his companions.

There is some beautiful stuff in this article, The Islamic Revival in Shia and Sunni Schools Sunni Islamic schools do not accept any damage to Islamic religious symbols, and Shiite schools also said that the film could be shown if the religious symbols were not insulted, but out of concern for everyone, the staff decided to cancel the film. According to stylistics, the article is formally written.

In Britain, there were demonstrations in front of cinemas on the first day it was shown because they considered the film insulting the Prophet Muhammad and his daughter Fatima. Also, a group of Shiites were disturbed by the story of the broken rib of Al-Zahra, peace be upon her. This is true and everyone agrees on it, but they do not want to see that and they also consider it an insult to Lady Fatima and distorts Islam, its Prophet and its history as well.

In this, we will return to the author, who is a Shiite person. Yasser Al-Habib, a political and religious man who lives in Britain. According to the Shiites, there is nothing wrong with the film, the information is correct, the narration is correct, and all the information is correct, but among the Sunnis, many of them criticized this film because it insults Caliph Omar.

The topic speaks briefly about the mechanism of disagreement and fueling conflict and sectarianism among people, and although it has a source of truth, it does

not prevent it from being full of inaccurate historical fallacies. Therefore, we do not consider the film to be a conveyor of a historical event as much as it works to create conflict and division between Islamic sects.

Assumption is accepting something real even if one does not know it for sure. The assumption is based on a belief in sufficient data to support it, although the result is unknown. This is what happened in the movie. Many viewers believe that the movie is incorrect and has no authenticity. On the contrary, the other side of the viewers assume that the events of the film are correct, according to some sources and evidence.

Analyzing some phrases such as freedom of expression and how it can be used correctly and logically without offending another party, belief or religion that can be used in a respectful manner.

6.Conclusions

Discourse analysis reveals that there is no relationship between the article's idea and the sentences that are already there. This is because the article's isolated phrases and lack of connections with one another made it nearly unrecognizable. Because of the internal and external conflicts it depicts, the film "The Lady of Heaven" has gained international recognition. While the microstructures are crucial for structuring scenes and dialogues, the macrostructures are crucial for clearly and precisely arranging the film's plot. The creation of meaning in language beyond the sentence level is the most significant of these artistic elements, and through our research, we learn about discourse analysis and the general framework of all artistic elements. The article employs a formal writing style, since it is published on the official website of a British newspaper, which is crucial for examining the structure of discourse analysis.

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