

A Semantic-Stylistic Analysis of Iraqi Ministry Titles Before and After 2003

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Abstract:

The present study has two objectives: First, to track and negotiate the various patterns of semantic change in Iraqi ministry titles before and after 2003. Second, to explore the stylistic forms and structures of ministry titles across two pivotal periods and how they shape and characterize institutional language. Practically, the current study adopts a qualitative eclectic analytical framework that integrates the Lexical Semantic Field Theory, Descriptive linguistics along with Halliday's notion of nominalization as part of his (SFG) theory in order to analyze the selected data. The analyzed ministry titles have been classified into five groups due to their state of existence after 2003 compared to the pre-2003 ones. These five classifications are: Continuity, modified, dissolved, newly established and temporary ministry titles. The semantic-stylistic investigation has led the researcher to some major conclusions encapsulated in the fact that both pre-2003 and continuity titles tend to stick to features of bureaucratic language and formality represented in semantic stability, traditional sovereign semantic fields, stylistic and syntactic simplicity reflected in the employment of the simple noun phrase (henceforth NP) pattern of 'The Ministry of + Noun', abstraction of the key nouns and a low range of word count as indicators of the ministries' restricted functions and institutional orientations. In contrast, newly established and temporary titles that emerged after 2003 signal a shift towards semantic expansion, scope-diversity and unprecedented semantic fields in the pre-2003 era such as the field of human rights as well as the rising stylistic complexity of NP depicted in the employment of coordination and prepositional modification along with word counts boost and abstraction to entail scope-widening and specialization of these ministries as indicators of the new state's reconfiguration and institutional prerequisites that necessitate this linguistic alteration and change.

Keywords: Institutional discourse, descriptive linguistics, Iraqi ministry titles, nominalization, semantic field theory

1. Introduction

The language of institutional discourse has exceeded the level of administrative naming to a much more prominent role that highlights the governmental organizations' functions, fields and visions. Consequently, the linguistic patterns and structures utilized in institutional discourse vitally demonstrate the orientations of an institutional or governmental system or regime instead of being merely static linguistic blocks, but rather constructors of meaning (Fairclough, 2003).

Relatively, ministry titles represent adequate examples of institutional discourse since the exploration of their structures, registers and lexical choices tells a lot about the institutional nomenclature and the policy of the state.

In the case of the Iraqi ministry titles, the linguistic exploration of ministerial titling is enclosed and determined by the pivotal political regime shift that took place after 2003. This requires the examination of the titles in the Iraqi ministerial cabinet across two periods; before

and after 2003 so as to linguistically track, identify and measure the patterns of stability and transformation in the ministry titles across these two periods.

However, the thorough and profound exploration of the literature about the linguistic analysis of Iraqi ministry titles has led the researcher to identify a noticeable theoretical gap as most of the studies available on the common trustworthy academic databases show a concentration upon the political and sociopolitical aspects of this transitional phase in Iraq (especially after 2003), while the linguistic aspect is still underrated or unexplored. In consequence, there is no available single study that linguistically analyze Iraqi ministry titles across both pre- and post-2003 periods. As a result, the present study aims to bridge this gap in literature by means of conducting an eclectic analytical model of analysis that linguistically investigates the Iraqi ministry titles before and after 2003 from a semantic-stylistic lens in order to manifest institutional transformation throughout linguistic naming.

2. Theoretical background

2.1 Semantic Field Theory

Historically speaking, the proposal of this theory (also referred to as lexical field or lexical domain theory) dates back to the 19th century based on the contribution of the German linguist W. Humboldt who put the very foundations of this theory. Later on in the 1930s, this theory was practiced and developed by a number of Swiss and German linguists including Jolls, Porzing, Ipsen and J. Trier whose proposal is considered the most acceptable version of this theory as it opens a new horizon for studying semantics. Unlike his fellow colleagues who neglected the traditional research methods in investigating semantics, Trier found a research approach that tackles semantics from both developmental and relational aspects in which the roles of context and language system unity are amplified (Nasiba & Alisherovna, 2022).

The essence of this theory is encapsulated in tracking the relation between “genus and species of lexical study”. In result, a bunch of specific words are accumulated or classified under one umbrella concept in order to form a semantic domain or field. Accordingly, language semantic fields and vocabulary system are semantically related, interconnected, continually changing and of a paradigmatic quality or nature (Gao & Xu, 2013, p. 2031).

Thus, Trier’s version emphasizes that vocabulary in a language system are no longer treated as isolated lexical items, but they rather acquire meaning through their interconnection within a semantic area or field (Al-Haiadreh, 2025).

In relevance to the present study, ministry titles represent a vivid application of this theory since each ministry title is sorted under a certain semantic field such as security and infrastructure. This reflects its institutional function and governmental duties and consequently facilitates their categorization over the pre- and post-2003 epochs in order to recognize the patterns of semantic stability, modification and change or shift in institutional titling.

2.2 Descriptive Stylistics

As it is rooted in classical rhetoric, stylistics has set itself as an interdisciplinary and overlapping branch that hooks up linguistics to other scopes as it examines various features and angles of style in language and text (Dabbagh & Alsayyid, 2025).

Due to its eclectic nature and diversity of scope, the definition of stylistics varies depending on the concept or the perspective it is taken from. Therefore, it has been assorted as a ‘general semiotic notion’, ‘feature of expression’ and ‘linguistic concept or notion’. Furthermore, four

types of stylistics can be distinguished in this respect: 'Functional stylistics', 'stylistics of perception', 'stylistics of individual speech' and 'stylistics of language' or what is better known as 'descriptive stylistics' (Fabian, 2021, p.6).

Descriptive stylistics concerns itself with the form and structure of a text as it investigates and analyze linguistic features and patterns including phrase type and structure, length and complexity and lexical selections in the discourse (Keizer, 2007). Subsequently, it activates within the grammatical level (the organization of words and phrases) and the lexical level (associated with word field and parts of speech). The identification of these linguistic patterns in the stylistic level assists in the discourse categorization process since it labels discourses due to their determining linguistic features and registers as well as the measure of formality (Hussain, Zehra & Ud Din, 2025).

As far as it is concerned with the present study, descriptive stylistics is quite efficient in examining the forms and structures of the Iraqi ministry titles before and after 2003 by means of tracking the NP types, word counts and patterns of stylistic variance in these titles. consequently, only this type of stylistics will be adopted in the hybrid analytical framework of the present study due to its proportionality with the nature of the present study and methodological aptness.

2.3 Halliday's notion of nominalization

As part of his Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) theory, nominalization comprises an essential constituent of grammatical metaphor (Qianbo, 2017). As the core of his argument about nominalization, Halliday denotes that "metaphor is a variation of a given meaning instead of a variation in the meaning of a given expression". As it is associated with grammatical metaphor, nominalization stands as an impactful linguistic feature of technical, formal and scientific registers as a means of linguistic bundling and data condensing (Tian & Zhang, 2023).

Throughout nominalization, dynamic processes and action verbs are converted into abstract nouns, entities and concepts which increases the formal and technical registers of a discourse (Abbood, 2025; Juznic, 2012). According to (Yue, 2018), nominalization results in 'high lexical density' as it is characterized with "condensed information, concise expression, compact structure and strong logic", which makes it a favorable linguistic strategy in highly formal discourses such as political, legal and scientific discourses (p.2).

In the light of the current study, nominalization functions as an influential stylistic analytical tool of the amount of abstraction of the key nouns in the Iraqi ministry titles in order to identify the types of linguistic registers that institutional titling presupposes in both periods.

Consequently, the hybridization of the concept of nominalization that pursues the level of abstraction in ministry titles along with descriptive stylistics that explores and scrutinizes form and structure complexity of these titles, forms the stylistic level of analysis which homogenously corresponds and complements the semantic field theory which in its turn functions as the semantic level of analysis in order to obtain a comprehensive and integral analysis of the selected data.

3. Methodology

The current study is designed according to the qualitative research methodology due to its nature that fits the analytical framework and the objectives of the present study.

3.1 Corpus of the study

The corpus of the present study is comprised of the official Iraqi ministry titles across two epochs; before and after 2003. The pre-2003 ministry titles were compiled from a book entitled

Directory of Iraqi Ministries (1920-2003), published by *Iraqi Center for Information and Studies*. As for the post-2003 ministry titles, they were collected from the official governmental websites of the ministries. In order to maintain clarity of analysis and objectivity of results, the analysis has been conducted in terms of five systematic tables due to these ministries current institutional situation in the ministerial cabinet and existence before and after 2003. Thence, these tables are classified into: Continuity ministries in both periods, ministries modified after 2003, ministries dissolved after 2003, ministries founded after 2003 till present and ministries founded and then dissolved after 2003. The selected analytical tools are inserted in these five tables in order to obtain a concise but a comprehensive analysis of these ministries according to the chosen eclectic model of analysis.

3.2 Analytical framework and procedures of analysis

Three models are selected in order to build up the eclectic semantic-stylistic analytical framework of this study. These three models are: Semantic Field Theory which operates in the semantic level of analysis and Descriptive Stylistics along with Halliday's notion of nominalization as part of his SFG theory as they actively co-work in the stylistic level of the ministry titles analysis. Technically, each of the five suggested tables of analysis consists of seven columns in which the analytical tools activate semantically and then stylistically to examine each of the inserted ministry titles. Therefore, the semantic analysis consumes the second and third columns (key nouns and semantic categorization) respectively, while the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh columns are dedicated for the stylistic investigation (nominalization, word count, NP complexity and coordination or modification) respectively.

4. Data Analysis and discussion of the results

4.1 Analysis of the continuity ministries in both periods (stable ministries)

On one hand, the semantic and lexical aspects of analysis spotlight a significant state of semantic stability in the ministry titles in table (1) in both periods as their tracking shows no explicit change which labels their essential institutional importance in the ministerial cabinet and their core functions that cannot be changed or removed due to political regime change. Moreover, the semantic categorization of these titles classify them under seven major semantic categories or fields, namely: Sovereign, security, diplomacy, administration, economy, services and education, which in its turn mirrors the unavoidable and persistent governmental duties these ministries are in charge of.

On the other hand, the stylistic analysis represented in the three last columns in table (1) shows a vivid tendency towards bureaucracy in ministerial titles. Basically, eleven ministries are structured in the simple NP pattern (Ministry of + noun) with a word count of no more than three words, for instance the 'Ministry of Interior'. While only three of the continuity titles namely 'Ministry of Industry and Minerals', 'Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' and 'Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Affairs' tend to show more complexity in NP structure as they involve coordination with 'and', as well as their word counts that range between four to seven words as a sign of semantic expansion and lexical flexibility of their categorization and scopes. This reflects a priority of syntactic simplicity, lexical economy, functional specialization and linguistic and semantic lucidity.

Also, the stylistic analysis denotes nominalization as a marker of bureaucratic pattern in the continuity titles as it is revealed throughout the level of abstractness in their key nouns. Accordingly, only two ministries namely the 'Ministry of Oil' and partially the 'Ministry of

Industry and Minerals' are labeled as concrete nouns while the rest of the twelve ministries in table (1) consist of abstract nouns that are fundamentally dynamic actions or processes transformed into static fields or formal institutional entities.

In sum, the continuity titles in both periods mostly keep the simple NP structure and a compacted word count that almost does not exceed three words as well as the nominalization of their key nouns into abstraction which in its turn highlights the bureaucratic linguistic register and organizational specification in these titles.

Ministry title	Semantic analysis		Stylistic Analysis			
	Key noun	Semantic category	nominalization	Word count (length)	Form (NP type or complexity)	Coordination/Modification
Ministry of Interior	Interior	Sovereign/Security/regulation/order	Abstract/institutional	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Defense	Defense	Sovereign/Security/Military	Abstract/nominalized action into institutional	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Affairs	Diplomatic/International connections	Abstract/nominalized plural noun (modified by an adjective)	4 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Justice	Justice	Legal	Abstract/Concept	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Finance	Finance	Management/Economy	Abstract/nominalized process	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Planning	Planning	Administration/growth	Abstract/nominalized process into an entity	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Trade	Trade	Economy/Commercial	Abstract/nominalized process into an entity	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Oil	Oil	Resources/Economy	Concrete uncountable noun	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Agriculture	Agriculture	Economy/Production	Abstract/nominalized process	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Industry and Minerals	Industry Minerals	Economy/manufacturing/ resources	Abstract/ nominalized process Concrete plural noun	5 words	Complex NP	and
Ministry of Health	Health	Services/Welfare	Abstract/concept/state	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Labour Affairs	Social services/social monitoring	Abstract/concept Abstract/ nominalized plural noun (modified by an adjective)	6 words	Complex NP	and
Ministry of Education	Education	Educational services	Abstract/ nominalized process	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Affairs	Education Affairs	Educational services	Abstract/ nominalized process Abstract/ nominalized plural noun (modified by an adjective)	7 words	Complex NP	and

Table (1): Semantic-stylistic Analysis of the continuity ministries in both periods

4.2 Analysis of ministry titles that are linguistically modified after 2003

Table (2) below displays a comparative account of the semantic and stylistic structures of four stable ministry titles in the two periods but were subjected to linguistic modification after 2003. The semantic lens of analysis figures out an expansion in semantic categorization from restricted field or functional label in pre-2003 titles towards a growing tendency of institutionalization. Such a feature can be clearly noted in the 'Ministry of Irrigation', which its function is confined or restricted within agricultural issues, whereas its post-2003 equivalent title 'Ministry of Water Sources' suggests a broader institutional area that includes resources, environmental and even international related issues not just water management. One more example of post-2003 semantic extension is apparent in the 'Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities' as it indicates and adds new semantic categories, namely national heritage and history. Meanwhile, only one example of semantic shrinkage or compression in post-2003 versions can be figured out in the 'Ministry of Transportation' which proposes a tendency task-specialized nomenclature. This demonstrates the post-2003 reconfiguration of ministry titles into a semantically broader and administrative terminology.

Technically, the stylistic level of analysis manifests NP complexity in post-2003 versions as they fluctuate between compression as in 'The Ministry of Transportation', showing linguistic economy and domain-specification, while ministries such as those of construction and tourism are already coordinated in their pre-2003 versions, but their post-2003 versions explicate the stylistic modification via adding other nouns to expand their new institutional functions. In this respect, the rise up of word count in post-2003 titles between three to seven words reinforces this orientation of linguistic expansion and NP variation. Moreover, nominalization activates in both periods as the key nouns in all the pre-2003 ministries in table (2) are living examples of nominalized actions and processes into institutions such as 'Construction' and 'Irrigation', which underlines the bureaucratic linguistic tendency towards abstraction. As for the post-2003 titles, only two ministries show examples of concrete nouns which are 'Water' as in the 'Ministry of Water Resources' and 'Antiquities' in the 'Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities', when the rest of post-2003 titles in this table tend to be labelled under the category of abstract nouns that are genuinely derived from dynamic processes. Consequently, abstraction labels linguistic formality in addition to clustering several nouns in the same phrase as stylistic indicators of functional expansion. In result, the comparative analysis in table (2) intensifies the post-2003 linguistic change in ministry titles encapsulated in their semantic extension and stylistic diversity represented in increased NP complexity through coordination and nominal clustering and institutional abstraction which assert the new state's institutional alteration towards linguistic bureaucracy.

Ministry title before 2003	Semantic analysis		Stylistic Analysis			
	Key noun	Semantic category	nominalization	Word count (length)	Form NP type/complexity	Coordination/Modification
Ministry of Transport and Communications	Transport Communications	Transportation/Public services/Technical services	Abstract/nominalized process Abstract/nominalized process into a plural noun	5 words	Complex NP	and
Ministry of Irrigation	Irrigation	Administrative/water-control/agriculture	Abstract/nominalized process	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Housing and Construction	Housing Construction	Infrastructure/Public services/Developmental	Abstract/nominalized action into institutional Abstract/nominalized process	5 words	Complex NP	and
Ministry of Culture	Culture	Cultural domain	Abstract/Concept	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry title after 2003	Semantic analysis		Stylistic Analysis			
	Key noun	Semantic category	nominalization	Word count (length)	Form (NP type/complexity)	Coordination/Modification
Ministry of Transportation	Transportation	Public services/Mobility	Abstract/nominalized process	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Water Resources	Water Resources	Water-management/environmental	Concrete Abstract/nominalized plural noun into institutional	4 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Construction, Housing and Public Municipalities	Construction Housing Municipalities	Infrastructure/Public services/Developmental/Urban-management	Abstract/nominalized process Abstract/nominalized action into institutional Abstract/nominalized plural noun into institutional	7 words	Complex NP	and
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities	Culture Tourism Antiquities	Cultural domain/Economy/national heritage/history	Abstract/Concept Abstract/nominalized process Concrete	6 words	Complex NP	and

Table (2): A comparative semantic-stylistic analysis of ministries that are linguistically modified after 2003

4.3 Analysis of the old regime ministries dissolved after 2003

The semantic breakdown of the dissolved ministry titles after 2003 in table (3) below substantially elucidates the dominance of two semantic domains under which these ministries can be categorized. These semantic fields are concerned with media and religious surveillance and militarization. They basically reflect the old regime's agenda based, ideological and centralization tendency encoded in institutional naming.

The stylistic level of analysis reveals that the key nouns in these ministry titles are constructed with a high degree of abstraction as two titles contain key plural nouns nominalized into abstract institutional entities as in the noun 'Affairs' in the 'Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs' and the 'Ministry of State for Military Affairs', while the key nouns in the other ministries 'Information' and 'Industrialization' are derived from action verbs turned into abstract institutional nouns. Nominalization and abstraction are fundamental features or columns of bureaucratic and administrative-centered registers of the state before 2003. As for NP complexity and form, the structures of the four titles in table (3) exhibit an example of simple NP with a word count of only three words as in 'The Ministry of Information' whereas the rest three titles follow the complex NP pattern with 'and' as a sign of coordination in the second ministry to suggest semantic inclusion and expansion of category. Even the word count that rises up to six words intensifies this category expansion. The third ministry titles in table (3) show a modification with a prepositional phrase and the fourth ministry show a modification with an adjective 'military' and a word count that ranges between four and six words to syntactically denote a higher level of functional and institutional specialization.

All in all, ministry titles in this table have a specific linguistic characterization as they are semantically associated to and labelled under the domains of centralized authority, military, religious and media surveillance and control and regime ideological governance in addition to their stylistic and structural patterns that display various forms of NP types and the involvement of nominalization as an instrument of institutional abstraction.

Ministry title	Semantic analysis		Stylistic Analysis			
	Key noun	Semantic category	nominalization	Word count (length)	Form (NP type/complexity)	Coordination/Modification
Ministry of Information	Information	Media-surveillance /political-agenda	Abstract/nominalized action into institutional	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs	Endowment Affairs	Religious/Administrative	Abstract Abstract/nominalized plural noun	6 words	Complex NP	and
Ministry of State for Military Affairs	Affairs	Military	Abstract/nominalized plural noun	6 words	Complex NP	none
Ministry of Military Industrialization	Industrialization	Military production	Abstract/nominalized process	4 words	Complex NP	none

Table (3): Analysis of the old regime ministries dissolved after 2003

4.4 Analysis of ministries established after 2003 till present

The ministry titles in table (4) below spotlight the new state's orientations and priorities since these titles have no existence in the ministerial cabinet before 2003. Accordingly, new semantic fields emerge in the post-2003 titles including public services and energy as in 'The Ministry of Electricity', infrastructures, technological affairs, environmental and sustainability and most notably youth and social improvement. These newly emerged institutional fields highlight the new state's system that heads towards institutional expansion and flexibility in addition to modernity and global engagement.

The stylistic level of analysis figures out nominalization as a dominant linguistic feature in structuring the ministry titles in table (4). The key nouns of these ministry titles vary in their types from mass nouns as in 'Electricity', a process into an institution as in 'Communications', a collective noun as in 'Youth' or just a field noun as in 'Sports'. However, they are all contextualized and encoded into abstract institutional nouns that reflect both formality and bureaucracy in governmental and institutional language after 2003. Furthermore, the first three ministries in table (4) exhibit a simple NP structure composed of three words in terms of the conventional formal bureaucratic pattern of 'Ministry of + key noun' in order to underline the simple, brief, precise and function-centered tradition of institutional naming such as in the 'Ministry of Environment'. However, 'The Ministry of Youth and Sports' signals a shift in structure complexity as it tends to follow the complex NP pattern of five words in addition to using the coordination conjunction 'and' to join two semantic fields under the umbrella of one institutional entity. This is a clear cut example of semantic expansion in post-2003 ministry titles.

In the outcome, the semantic-stylistic inspection of the ministry titles established after 2003 emphasizes a notable linguistic invention and expansion in terms of the semantic categories and in the meantime the devised semantic fields are accompanied with the conventional standardized stylistic features of bureaucratic language including nominalization of numerous types of nouns into abstract entities as well as formal NP forms.

Ministry title	Semantic analysis		Stylistic Analysis			
	Key noun	Semantic category	nominalization	Word count (length)	Form (NP type/complexity)	Coordination/Modification
Ministry of Electricity	Electricity	Services/infrastructure/ Energy sources	Abstract/mass noun	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Communications	Communications	Services/technology/infrastructure	Abstract/nominalized action into institutional	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Environment	Environment	Ecology	Abstract/institutional	3 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of Youth and Sports	Youth Sports	Youth improvement/social improvement	Abstract/collective noun referring to a social category Abstract/field noun	5 words	Complex NP	and

Table (4): Analysis of the ministries established after 2003 till present

4.5 Analysis of ministries both established and then dissolved after 2003

Practically, the semantic-stylistic tracking of the ten ministry titles in table (5) below strongly mirrors the new state's institutional shift and alteration of governmental priorities after 2003. The semantic lens of analysis detects new semantic scopes emerged after 2003. For instance, establishing 'The Ministry of Science and Technology' is essentially associated with the new state's requirements and orientations towards modernization and knowledge prominence. Additionally, the rise of rights-related ministry titles that show an increased interest in social reform and gender-related issues such as the 'Ministry of Human Rights' and the 'Ministry of State for Women's Affairs' which have no existence in the pre-2003 ministerial cabinet. Furthermore, the emergence of ministries concerned with national dialogue, reconciliation and provincial affairs semantically highlights the transitional sociopolitical phase of the state after 2003 that necessitates an intensive governmental solicitude towards regional and local or municipal issues. Moreover, the regional and environmental semantic categories are peripheral nearly absent from the pre-2003 list of ministries, while in the post-2003 transitional period, there is remarkable concern in this field represented in the establishment of 'The Ministry of State for Marshes Affairs'. Thus, this semantic widening and diversity amplify the new era's aspirations embedded in their institutional titles.

In parallel, the stylistic analysis reveals to some extent a consistent adoption of the bureaucratic structural pattern of 'The Ministry of' or 'Ministry of State' followed by an abstract noun with some modulations represented in coordination with 'and' and modification with the

prepositional 'for' in addition to the use of the nominalized plural noun 'Affairs'. This suggests an eminently growing NP complexity than in pre-2003 ministry titles as it shows institutional expansion and more governmental specialization. This case is also evident through the word count boost in most of the ministry titles in table (5) that reach up to six words which confirms this semantic extension.

However, nominalization plays an apparently distinctive role in structuring these ministry titles as they demonstrate a high level of abstraction as a prevalent quality of bureaucratic language and formal register. In this respect, various patterns of nominalization are employed including nominalization of processes or actions into institutional organizations and entities as in 'Reconciliation' in the 'Ministry of State for National Reconciliation Affairs', abstract plural nouns as in 'Rights' in the 'Ministry of Human Rights', modifying collective nouns as in 'Women' and 'Human', and field nouns as in 'Science' and 'Technology' in the 'Ministry of Science and Technology'.

A further point to be considered in this respect is the significant salience of the noun 'Affairs' in most of the ministry titles in table (5). The noun itself grants the title a space of linguistic and institutional flexibility and a general semantic impression. This in its turn may interpret the reason that lies behind their dissolution due to their temporary necessity in a certain transitional phase of the post-2003 state.

Consequently, the ministries in table (5) are linguistically shaped with a distinguished semantic stretching, scope diversity and creativity accompanied with a heavily stylistic featuring operated in increased NP complexity and abstraction which amplifies the linguistic shift in institutional titles after 2003.

Ministry title	Semantic analysis		Stylistic Analysis			
	Key noun	Semantic category	nominalization	Word count (length)	Form (NP type/complexity)	Coordination/Modification
Ministry of Science and Technology	Science Technology	Modernization/knowledge/intellect	Abstract/Field noun Abstract/Field noun	5 words	Complex NP	Coordination with 'and'
Ministry of Human Rights	Human Rights	Social reform/social well-being	Abstract/modifying noun Abstract/nominalized plural noun	4 words	Simple NP	none
Ministry of State for Women's Affairs	Women Affairs	Women's rights/social reform/gender-related issues/Administrative	Abstract/collective modifying noun Abstract/	6 words	Complex NP	Modification with the prepositional 'for'

			nominalized plural noun			
Ministry of State for Marshes Affairs	Marshes Affairs	Administrative/ecology/environment revival and protection	Abstract/nominalized entity Abstract/nominalized plural noun	6 words	Complex NP	Modification with the prepositional 'for'
Ministry of State for Parliament Affairs	Parliament Affairs	Administrative/governmental legislation/political manners	Abstract/nominalized institution Abstract/nominalized plural noun	6 words	Complex NP	Modification with the prepositional 'for'
Ministry of State for Provincial Affairs	Affairs	Administrative/regional regulation	Abstract/nominalized plural noun	6 words	Complex NP	Modification with the prepositional 'for'
Ministry of State for National Reconciliation Affairs	Reconciliation Affairs	National solidarity/dispute-settlement	Abstract/nominalized action into institutional Abstract/nominalized plural noun	7 words	Complex NP	Double modification with the prepositional 'for' and the noun 'reconciliation'
Ministry of State for National Dialogue	Affairs	National and social communication/sociopolitical openness	Abstract/nominalized plural noun	6 words	Complex NP	Modification with the prepositional 'for'
Ministry of State for Tribal Affairs	Affairs	Social solidarity/dispute-settlement	Abstract/nominalized plural noun	6 words	Complex NP	Modification with the prepositional 'for'
Ministry of State and Government Spokesman	Government Spokesman	Governmental representation/political declaration	Abstract/modifying noun Abstract/institutional role	6 words	Complex NP	Coordination with 'and'

Table (5): List of Iraqi Ministries established after 2003 and dissolved or merged later

4.6 Findings and discussion of the results

The key findings of the analysis of the ministry titles in the five suggested tables in sections (4.1), (4.2), (4.3), (4.4) and (4.5) respectively will be negotiated in this section within two analytical levels; Semantic and stylistic. Based on the adopted eclectic analytical framework of the present study.

The semantic level of analysis explicates the states of stability, modification and change in the ministry titles semantic categories before and after 2003. On the one hand, the continuity ministries given in table (1) manifests a consistent lexical stability as they keep the same titles in both periods which denotes the core governmental responsibility and sovereignty of these ministries. This makes them constant columns in the ministerial cabinet despite the regime-shift or change. On the other hand, the comparative analysis of the ministry titles in table (2) reflects a prominent post-2003 orientation towards linguistic modification represented in semantic and lexical expansion, lexical re-ordering, specifically in semantic fields of environment and culture which points the new state's broadening administrative occupations that presupposes this linguistic modification and amendment.

As for the dissolved or abolished ministry titles in table (3), they are principally classified under the semantic domains of centralized authority, militarization and ideological control as the signature of the old regime's administrative strategy. Subsequently, their dissolution from the post-2003 ministerial cabinet is a sturdy indicator of the new era's administrative tendencies.

The semantic expansion is vividly apparent in the ministry titles in table (4), since their categories show no presence in the pre-2003 cabinet as standalone ministries. The establishment of these ministries reflects the semantic extension that accompanies the institutional diversity and expansion of the post-2003 government as they signal a notable shift from focused and restricted occupation ministries towards a wider range of semantic scopes that include public service such as 'Electricity', infrastructure, technology and modernization as in 'Communications' and social improvement and youth related institutions as in 'The Ministry of Youth and Sports'.

Finally, the list of ministries in table (5) ticks the transitional phase of the post-2003 era and its temporal institutional preferences and priorities demonstrated in the newly-invented semantic scopes such as those of rights-related ministries, gender-based, social reform, modernization and technology in addition to these concerned with national solidarity and reconciliation as well as regional and environment related ministries. In spite of their later dissolution after 2003, but these ministry titles mark a significant alteration in semantic categorization and expansibility rather than the restricted configuration in the pre-2003 regime.

In terms of the stylistic level of analysis, it has been found that nominalization constitutes a prevailing stylistic feature in all of the five list of ministries in both periods as a marker of bureaucratic language and formality in institutional titling. However, only few examples of concrete nouns have been figured out in the post-2003 ministries while abstraction plays a considerable role in transforming nouns in ministry titles into more formal institutional entities, specifically those derived from action or process verbs such as 'Communications', 'Reconciliation', ...etc.

In regard to the form and complexity of structure of NP, the stylistic analysis has diagnosed the simple NP as the standard structure with the pattern 'The Ministry of + Noun (mostly abstract)', as the marker of bureaucratic style in most of the pre-2003 titles and the continuity titles after 2003 as well with a word count that ranges between 3 and four words. Thus,

ministries in tables (1) and (2) are linguistically distinguished with lexical economy, precision and stylistic or structural simplicity to denote institutional and functional restriction.

Contrastively, most of the post-2003 titles in tables (3), (4) and (5) reveal an increased NP complexity operated via coordination with 'and' and modification with prepositional phrases. Regardless of their tendency to follow the conventional bureaucratic paradigm of 'The Ministry of + Noun', but they intensify the post-2003 institutional and governmental transition or switch and scope-stretching represented in syntactic and stylistic complexity.

All in all, the pre-2003 sovereign ministry titles in addition to the post-2003 continuity titles exhibit a sort of conservative linguistic style reverberated in semantic steadiness, stylistic simplicity and straightforwardness, lexical briefness and abstraction. On the other side, the linguistic characterization of the post-2003 ministry titles (dissolved later or permanent ones) labels a turn into semantic expansion, creativity and scope-diversity and openness, stylistic and syntactic complexity boost, lexical raise as shown in the word counts of the titles as well as the increased level of abstraction.

Conclusions

The concluded remarks of the semantic-stylistic scrutinization of the Iraqi ministry titles before and after 2003 go in parallel with the analytical framework that is designed to explore the dataset within two levels; semantic and stylistic.

The semantic level of analysis reveals the state of stability and continuity of the sovereign ministry titles before and after 2003 due to their fundamental governmental functions and responsibility that cannot be dissolved due to regime shift. Such continuity titles are categorized under the semantic fields of security, public services and economy. The analysis also unveils examples of modification, dissolution and establishing, particularly in the post-2003 titles, represented in the semantic expansion and diversity of scope as figured out in the semantic domains of public services, social and youth issues, gender issues, infrastructure, environment and sustainability, regional and local related issues as well as tribal issues and reconciliation and national solidarity. These semantic extension and register shift highlight and underline the transition of the post-2003 conceptualization, policy and institutional orientations from centralized authority and control towards institutional expansion, flexibility and international engagement.

As for the stylistic level of analysis which is technically concerned with the forms and structures of ministry titles; the analysis explicates the adoption of the conventional formal bureaucratic register of 'The Ministry of + Noun' pattern in all the pre-2003 titles and mostly all the post-2003 titles with specific modifications represented in the temporary rise of 'The Ministry of State + Noun' pattern which served as a flexible institutional label or pattern of ministerial titling due to the requirements of the transitional phase after 2003. Furthermore, the increased level of complexity of structure in post-2003 titles from simple NP to complex NP via coordination and conjunction as well as word count boost that exceeds the range of six words in addition to the increase in nominal abstraction to label bureaucratic register of institutional discourse; all these stylistic features emphasize the institutional expansion and scope broadening and institutional functions in ministry titles after 2003. Consequently, the current study provides an insightful account of Iraqi ministry titles as effective linguistic markers of institutional governance and state orientations across two pivotal periods of time.

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