

ICLALIS 2013

Polarized discourse in the news

Mohammed Mahmoud Eissa^{a*}^a*English Department, Faculty of Education, Suez University, 43527 Suez, Egypt*^a*English Department, The University College, Umm Al Qura University, 21955 Mecca, Saudi Arabia*

Abstract

The aim of this study is to investigate ideological structures of polarized discourse coded in the reports of two online news websites: *egyptindependent* and *ikhwanweb*. The study focuses on online news reports relating to three interrelated events: the issuing of a constitutional declaration by the Egyptian president, the aftermath clashes outside the presidential palace and the issuing of the Egyptian draft constitution. The analysis of these reports is conducted within the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis. The features of the ideologies of polarized discourse are traced through quotation patterns and labeling. The study concludes with a discussion on how both websites establish a dichotomy of 'we' versus 'them'. In addition, the reports of each website marginalize the other through what is termed 'Absent News'.

© 2014 Published by Elsevier Ltd. Open access under [CC BY-NC-ND license](#).

Selection and peer-review under the responsibility of the Organizing Committee of ICLALIS 2013.

Keywords: Polarization; quotation patterns; labeling; CDA; news actors; ideological square; stereotypes

1. Introduction

Since 25 January 2011, the Egyptian revolution has been in the limelight for its uniqueness and the dramatic changes it has caused in the Middle East in general and in Egypt in particular. One of these dramatic changes is the media manipulation of events. To be precise there has been 'media war' among different opposing parties. The mass media played a noticeable role in deepening points of difference and polarization leading to a tug-of-war.

In this context, this research detects the different forms of polarized discourse represented by news reports in two news websites: *ikhwanweb* and *Egyptindependent*. The rationale behind choosing those websites in particular is

*Corresponding author: Mohammed Mahmoud Eissa. Tel.: +20-10-1587-9487; +20-2555-6925; +96-6536196552
E-mail address: mmelsayed@uqu.edu.sa

their representation of two different ideologies. Ikhwanweb is the official English mouthpiece of the Muslim Brotherhood which is currently the ruling power in Egypt. In contrast, Egyptindependent represents the liberal and opposing viewpoint to the ruling power.¹

Through complete quantitative and qualitative investigation of news reports in both websites, this study probes for the answer of these questions:

- 1) Does the application of Van Dijk's (1998, p.33) ideological square reveal the use of 'polarized discourse' in both sites?
- 2) If yes, is this 'polarized discourse' traced in certain discursive practices like quotation patterns and labeling?

2. Data collection

The researcher detected different types of news in both sites for a month from 15 November to 15 December 2012, then classified events according to their interrelatedness. In other words, the chosen events are interrelated to each other, either as a result or a reason. These events are:

- The constitutional declaration issued by President Morsy on 22 November 2012
- The clashes outside the presidential palace on 5 December 2012
- The issuing of the draft constitution on 15 December 2012

Chronologically, the starting point of events was the announcement of the president's constitutional declaration, which gave President Morsy powers, like appointing the public prosecutor and giving immunity to the constituent assembly from dissolving. In addition, all constitutional declarations issued by the president could not be appealed or canceled by any political or governmental body. In reaction to the constitutional declaration, the president's opponents held a sit-in around the presidential palace as an expression of rejection of both the constitutional declaration and the issuing of the draft constitution. The inclusion of the third event, i.e. the issuing of the draft constitution, is due to the nature of writing this constitution, which caused a lot of controversy during this period. The controversy over this draft constitution is clearly manifested in the news reports in both websites.

The data collected from both sites can be summarized in Table (1) below:

Table 1. Data description

Source	No. news reports	No. words
Egyptindependent	30	17.387
Ikhwanweb	41	13.589

It is noteworthy that news reports of both sites are investigated quantitatively and qualitatively to answer research questions².

¹ A description of both websites can be found in the section 'about us' in:
A. www.ikhwanweb.com
B. www.egyptindependent.com

² A link to the full record of reports can be found in the appendix:
A. www.ikhwanweb.com
B. www.egyptindependent.com

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1113659>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1113659>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)