



## Investigating lexicalization in American and Iranian newspapers tackled Qassem Suleimani and Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis' Killing: A critical analytical perspective

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### Abstract

This study examines the linguistic tool (i.e., lexicalization) from critical perspective. This discourse pattern is scrutinized according to Fairclough; 1989 and Fowler; 1991 used by reporters of Americana and Iranian newspapers in representing the event of killing Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis and Qassem Suleimani. This study aims at analyzing the selected data quantitatively and qualitatively through the lens of the model. It is hypothesized that negative value expression will be hired in the two selected data as the more used type form the model units. The model units are scrutinized at the micro level of analysis to reveal hidden ideologies that are of control in such use, compared quantitatively in terms chi-square test. The selected data are two international news agencies: American and Iranian. Three newspapers from each agency have been selected. More precisely, nine reports are assigned for analyzed, selecting two excerpts from each newspaper. As total, 36 excerpts from 18 reports are the analyzed data. In conclusion, the event is conceptualized differently in each news agency basing on the use of vocabulary in ways pretty clear of ideological tendencies. Suleimani and Al-Muhandis are also represented in quite different sense with lucid control of ideology in the choice of words. Ideology controls the reporter's choice of the words in accordance with the political ideologies, religious ideologies of the newspaper.

**Keywords:** Ideology; Representation; News discourse; Lexicalization; choice of words

## 1. Introduction

In the early 1970s, in critical discourse analysis and neighboring disciplines such as psychology, sociology and social sciences, critical awareness is developed as a movement anti the dominative 'uncritical' specimens of the 1960s- 1970s (Van Dijk, 2008b). Rather, trends towards academic Marketization is the place where CDA emerged; conversely, CDA itself is the outcome of the diffusing of Marketing discourse academically (Weiss & Wodak, 2003). Critical discourse analysis evolved gradually, reaching its recent remarkable prominence. A symposium among many scholars, namely: Norman Fairclough, Gunther Kress, Van Leeuwen, Ruth Wodak, and Van Dijk in Amsterdam in January 1991, marked a crucial turn in the sophistication of CDA profoundly, discussing theories and methods, in particular, CDA.

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The second meeting in Vienna also marked valuable issues in CDA development in the presence of all of Van Dijk, Fairclough, Wodak, Van Leeuwen, Konard Ehlich, Ron Scollon, Irene Bellier, and Anton Pelinka (Wodak & Chilton, 2005).

## *1.1 Literature Review*

### *1.1.1 Ideology*

'Ideology' as a notion flourished intrinsically during the French Revolution, according to Antoine Destutt de Tracy (1754-1836), but it was first used publicly in 1796. For de Tracy, the term 'ideologie' means "science of thoughts" (Heywood, 2021). His point of view is supported by the fact that thoughts, specifically human concepts, are not the result of God or nature. Through bodily senses, the social environment is responsible for developing ideas (McLellan, 1986, as cited in Richardson, 2007).

To define ideology adequately is a difficult matter, and so far, no single integrable definition is advanced. Of course, this does not mean a low level of astuteness, but instead attributable to the wide range of meanings that are pertained to ideology; incompatible meanings. Some of these meanings: identification of minded, thoughts that are interestingly stimulated by society, set of ideas that characterize certain social group, rather means a process by which values, norms, creeds of social life are produced (Eagleton, 1991). Ideology, however, has a set of conventional definitions. Ideology is described as a conceptualization of people imagined relationships to their actual circumstances of existence (Althusser, 1971, as cited in Locke, 2004). Ideology, according to Locke, is an entire account about some elements of human affairs, and the ideal conduct of these aspects (2004).

### *1.1.2 Representation*

Functional approaches to language have emphasized texts' multi-functionality. Fairclough has preferred to explore three fundamental forms or features of meaning (Fairclough, 2003) for textual analysis, namely, actional, identificatory, and representational, rather than discussing functions (Fairclough, 2003). The final point is important since the thesis is about how news accounts portray the assassination of Suleimani and al-Muhandis. The construction of a mental image through art, language, and other realms where meaning may be generated, such as theatre, can be broadly characterized as representation. Discourse analysis investigates how language is used to describe certain phenomena (people, concepts, events, etc.) (Baker & Ellece, 2011).

### *1.1.3 News Discourse*

As a narrow sense of media and particular discourse type, newspaper is identified (Van Dijk, 1988). Though short, any informative image about a worthy, interesting or prominent issue, any piece of information is identified as news since it informs us (Anderson et al., 2016). News is the world's representation through language. In mass media, printed or written, news is a discourse genre with a popular and influential role, particularly in Western where media language is of much exposure by people. By the news, people can be more acknowledged about the world and the reality of social media facts. A dominant genre is media news (Weiss & Wodak, 2003).

### *1.1.4 Overview of Qassem Suleimani*

Qassem Suleimani was born in Qom city in Iran on March 11 (Alfoneh, 2011). Suleimani left his education and started working by the age of 13 years in Kerman city due to the debts of his father to al Shah Ali Ridh (Soufan, 2018).

As a date, 1979 is the when the Islamic Revolution or I.R. was established. An adequate explanation of the reasons and preconditions of the I.R. in Iran must begin with an account of the prior

rise of the modern bureaucratic state and the impact of its policies. In 1501, the Shi'ism as the state religion was established and started the story of the I.R. (Arjomand, 1989).

Haj Qassem Suleimani is designated as a leader of the Quds Force, which is one of the fifth strongest armer of IR; it is an elite unit. In 1990, the Quds Force was institutionalized. It is a movement or framework by which the Islamic Revolution activities in Iran extend to other countries (Zimmt, 2015). The Quds Force is regarded as a special operational division of the Revolutionary Guard. After Ayatollah Ali Khamani (Iran Supreme Leader), Suleimani is designated as the most powerful man in Iran and as the leading force beneath Iran's terrorist acts abroad (Woodward, 2020)

#### *1.1.5 Overview of Abu Mahdi Al -Muhandis*

Abu Mahdi al- Muhandis is the nickname of Jamal Jafaar Mohammed Ali Ibrahim (Beaumont, 2020). In the 1970s at Saddam Hussein epoch, he absconded to Iran (Schwartz, 2020). In response to Saddam's Ba'athists campaign against Dawa Party (Shiite Islamic Party), and as he was a member of this party, al- Muhandis departed Iraq and settled in Iran for several years, building close relations with the IRCG (Express News Service [ENS] , 2020).

Due to the fall of Mosul, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani has issued a fatwa, calling all the able-Iraqis for vindicating their country. In response to the religious reference fatwa, many of Iraq's Shiite forces crowded, establishing al 'hashed al- Sha'abi' or PMF (Popular Mobilization Force) (Alaaldin, 2017). Al-Muhandis was the second-in command leader of the PMF with a pivotal role.

#### *1.1.6 The Event of Killing Al-Muhandis and Suleimani*

As they were back from Syria towards Iraq, Suleimani, al- Muhandis, alongside other Lebanese officials in Hezbollah, were back from on Syrian board airplanes (Chandran, 2020). They arrived at 1:00 a.m. on Friday, January 3, 2020, at Baghdad International Airport. A US airstrike hits separate Suleimani's convoy as they are about to leave the port in two minibuses heading into the Green Zone (Frisch, 2020).

The drone used to carry out the hit, according to the New York Times, is one of the most feared in the US Air Force's arsenal, the MQ-9 Reaper. The missile used in the operation is a Hellfire R9x 'Ninja,' a variant missile with a kinetic warhead with pop-out blades, intended to minimize collateral damage. Based on these characteristics, this kind is used in the implementation of anti-terrorist operations (Chandran, 2020).

## **2. Research Questions**

1. How do the reporters employ lexical choices in the representation of the event under study?
2. Are there appealing to one of the fourth categories of lexicalization by the reporters in the conceptualizing the event?
3. How is ideology revealed through lexicalization in the two media agencies?

## **3. Research Methodology**

### *3.1 Selection and Collection of Data*

Two international news agencies: American Iranian newspapers have been selected as data for this study. The American newspapers include Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, and New York Times. The Iranian newspapers include Tehran Time, Iran News, and Kayhan. As criteria for this selection two, because of the event's significance as a major global event, the newspapers chosen must be based on popularity, orientation, and preponderance. Many studies have favored media texts because of

unique features, such as their accessibility and ease of access in comparison to other texts, which are far less accessible (Stockes, 2003). To this end, the primary paradigm in their selection is titulating data in terms of nationality, popularity, and conservatism.

After calibration of data in terms of appropriateness, the subsequent step is to collect them in an overall process, termed *Data collection*, of aggregating information and, in turn, endowing to a particular research question, problem or area (Mackey & Gass, 2005). Here, we have to ask ourselves where the data are located and how they are retrieved. The assigned data for this thesis are foreign newspaper ones: American and Iranian. Concerning the former, the preponderance of the newspapers (for some of which) is not available on the Internet; in our country, there is no service for getting or buying news reports; reports of the selected American newspaper. As a result, this necessitated outsourcing help. This is what is done by the researcher communicating some friends from abroad, and requiring from them to send the appointed newspapers as PDF file.

Conversely, the Iranian newspapers are recommended from Iran, the home of publishing, asking them to reprint the version disseminated in 2020 about the killing of Suleimani, emphasizing the dates: 3-4-5-6-7-8- 9-10 January 2020 - and delivering them by transportation to Iraq. The researcher collects fifty-five reports as a total number for all designated newspapers. Only eighteen reports are selected after making a match between the titles of the Iranian and American newspapers being addressed: the killing of Suleimani and al- Muhandis. There is no restriction to a specific date concerning the publishing date, yet the editions are preferably collected around the date near the event, from 3Jan., 2020, till two weeks later.

### 3.2. Model of Analysis: Lexicalization (Fairclough 1989 and Fowler 1991)

For Fair clough, whose 1989 model of vocabulary is adopted here, vocabulary can be investigated in many ways. 'Significant', 'wording', and 'lexicalization' are preferable terms to Fairclough than the term 'vocabulary' in the light of the idea that these terms imply the wording processes that signify or lexicalize the world differs in place, time, groups and people (1992). As part of his 1989 model, the experiential value in terms of overwording or overlexicalization, are adopted, alongside the expressive value whether positive or negative. By the former value, their aspects are of much interest in the encoding of the ideological differences in vocabularies in representing the world (Fairclough, 1989). Overwording or overlexicalization is a matter of ideological –struggle focus, and that involves many words, synonym or near synonym- with one reference (Fairclough, 1989). In persuasive language, expressive value is of much concern. The expressive value of different discourse types is of key role in revealing ideology (Fairclough, 1989). It is worth analyzing vocabularies from cultural dimension since America and Iran have far different cultures; religious, political culture, for instance. That is, how culture is of pivotal imprint in our use of language as stated by Fowler in his view of language and dialects, their vocabularies translate the culture in terms of objects, concepts and relations (Fowler, 1991). So, besides Fairclough categories, Fowler's view of culture imprint is tackled in analysis.

## 4. Data Analysis Section

### 4.1. Qualitative Analysis: Vocabulary (Textual level)

#### *American Samples*

Extract 1: "**Muhandis, a former political dissident, accused terrorist attack planner, legislator, and militia commander, was arguably Iraq's most powerful man. For many, he was Iran's face in the country.**" (Bulos, 2020)

The reporter here describes al-Muhandis, but from other than his unique identity to some categorization issues. The use of the adverb *onetime* is to be punctual in terms of his dissident only at the time of Saddam Hussein. Here, political ideology of al-Muhandis is limited to Saddam regime. "*Suspected terrorist*" is ideological motivated form of vocabulary as al-Muhandis is negatively represented; yet still, the writer precedes this negative lexical term by the adjective *suspected* to get an idea across that he does not want to judge on al-Muhandis inevitably as a terrorist, but there is incertitude in this regard; designating him as a terrorist. Even though this does not mean presumptive identification of Muhandis, the reporter exactly intends to clarify that this is the imprint of political culture in such view. So, avoiding bias is achieved by the lexical item *suspected*. "*As militia leader*" al-Muhandis is portrayed. At first glance, it is ordinary identification, but by in-depth investigation, the selectiveness of the noun *militia* is made with hidden ideologies since this name refers to any out-law force specified in the killing. In the meanwhile, al-Muhandis is designated as leader of such forces to again represent him in negative sense. Another evaluative expression in the report used negatively is "*wanted terrorist*" and as overlexicalization is "*dual citizen*" as referent substitutes al-Muhandis. Further, the phrases "*longtime ally to Iran*" and "*personal friend of Suleimani*" are used in representing him. Such lexical items are of ideological function to inspire the reader in the image they will have about al-Muhandis. Even the selected verbs indicate a sense of negativity in representing al-Muhandis as *fled* and its synonyms *escaped*. "*One of Iraq's most ....*" is positive image of al-Muhandis and that's why the reporter precedes it by the adjective *arguably* to transform the idea that this is what is argued, not what the reporter argues. The effect of society is again implicated here; social knowledge. The reporter goes on the representation of al-Muhandis in negative value whether by his lexical choice or by cited words as the description as by the international organization WikiLeaks that describes al-Muhandis. "*As a member of the QF*," al-Muhandis is represented in support for the arguable fact that he is the face of Iran in Iraq. Underrepresentation of Muhandis is achieved by the opted lexical item, of course, results of ideological stances; political ideology. "*Irregular warfare, leading militias, had fought*" all these are negative expressive vocabularies assigned for describing him.

Extract 2: "*The United States has not conducted an action similar to the attack on Suleimani since President Ronald Reagan ordered an airstrike against Libya in 1986 that came dangerously near to murdering the country's leader at the time, Moammar Kadafi.*"

(Wilkinson et.al, 2020)

A comparison in terms of long-term event tracing to 1986 exists in this excerpt. Reagan (the 40<sup>th</sup> American president 1981-1988) ordered the 1986 strike on Libya. More detailed, on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1986, Reagan gave his order to strike Tripoli (Libya capital) and Benghazi to kill Moammar Kaddafi (Libyan president at that time). *Not since* and *comparable* are used in accordance with the idea of comparison in this excerpt. The verb *order* is used to mean the authority to give orders as a President; an airstrike is a collocation with the killing as a noun used in this vein. *Came close* means not killed. So, "*attack, killing, airstrike, action and order*" are vocabularies that are all utilized in terms of the idea of killing. As a negative image of Suleimani, the employed words are involved as in the verb phrase "*plotting to kill*" to represent him. Being *officials*, so their job is to present proofs, and as such, the reporter uses the collocated term "*officials provided proofs.*" The phrase "*imminent attack*" is ideologically motivated to represent Suleimani in the negative image. Later through the text, we also observe similar use of negative evaluative expressions by the vocabularies "*terror, sowed chaos, and guerrilla-style*" in the image, the reporter tries to transmit to his reader about both Suleimani and Iran. Other vocabularies that indicate the meaning of escalation and danger in the rest of the text are: "*harsh retaliation, violence, dangerous escalation and hugely escalated.*" The reporter duplicates his lexical choice "*gamble*", using it in the headline to assert the topic of the current report. "*Escalated warfare*"

is another principled lexical choice opted to accentuate the extent of the danger of this gamble. A similar meaning is indicated by words of escalation sense like "*escalated move, sharp break, dramatic belligerent action*" that are used to describe the event as overlexicalization use. He also describes the event by adjectives that bear a sense of criticism like "*provocation*" and "*disproportionate*"

#### *Iranian Samples*

Extract 3: "*It is said that the murderers of the righteous God-fearing are not rightly begotten individuals, and the above named trio as well as those involved in the drone and helicopter attack that took the life of Suleimani, the Iraqi General Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis and others, are example of what the licentious and promiscuous society of the U.S. produces for the fire of hell*"

(Kayhan, 2020)

The noun "*murderers*", negative recruitment, is used as referent to all who engage in the event, from executors to planners, and the big head *Trump* as the responsible for the order. In another part of the clause, we notice similar use as "*the most despicable devils*", is overlexicalization mode of vocabulary to refer to the killers, representing them atrociously; the upmost negative image. This is interpreted by the fact that the noun *devil* by itself bears the hideous image of the human preceded by the negative adjective *despicable*, adding to that the reporter uses the superlative *most* to show the high degree of their devilish sense. The nominal, the "*righteous God-fearing*" is lexically selected to delineate the religious ideology of the reporter, which, in turn, is a result of the Muslim culture implication; high positive image of Suleimani, Muhandis, and others martyrdom. Furthermore, relating to the current religious terms in this report as the "*ethereal heavens, immortal martyrdom,*" the report reinforces his items with this collocated phrase. *Begotten individual* is also a negative image of the murderers in terms of suspecting their humanity. The appraisal adjective *heroic* is used to give Muhandis a positive image, and this will control the reader's mind in having this good image about him, undoubtedly ideologically motivated. The tougher negative image about the U.S. and the murderers is encapsulated by these silly adjectives *licentious* and *promiscuous*, are commonly used for describing women with no decency. Such words are culturally (religious and social) motivated; that is, the Kayhan reporter is affected by the Muslim culture in terms of ethics related to women, and by delving into these terms, their choices led to the prospect that the murderers are bastards/whoresons. *Hell* in "*fires of hell*" as antonym to "*heaven*" is used in accordance with other selected terms, and also to present them (the murderers) in this negative sense. *Produce* as a verb is used to mean inhuman production, while the verb *begot* refers to the human side. In sum, this example is imbued with vocabularies that are ideologically contested with culture and religious values.

Excerpt 4: "*Shahid Suleimani is the resistance's international face, and everyone who have a heartfelt attachment to the resistance want his blood. -Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Commander of the I. R.*"

(Weiler, 2020)

From the first glance and at the textual explicit level, there is plea for revenge. As of the selected vocabulary as first step in our analysis especially those that are opted to get a prospect a cross. For instance, *Shahid* is utilized synonymously to *martyr* to emphasize the religious culture. *Shahid* is a property given to any Muslim who had been killed during defeating to protect his/ her religious, homeland, or both, and which inspire for paradise. Hence, religious culture is of imprint in choosing such word. "*Seyed Ali Khamenei,*" the Iran Supreme Leader, through his speech calls those who heartedly connected to the resistance for which Suleimani is the *international face* to retaliate for his death. "*Seyed Ali,*" *Seyed* here is an identification of the relationship of his family to the Islam prophet Muhammad (peace on him). *Ayatollah*, conversely, is the highest degree for Islamic religious studies

(Shiite sect). His close and tied relation to Suleimani is manifested in the words he uses to describe Suleimani. As another culture-implication in the text is the word *pontificated*. "*Heart-felt connection*" is dedicated as overlexicalization justified by the idea Khamenei pursues to deliver that our heart relation is different from our minds' and by heart we will be more sensitive without a space for tautology, and in result Khamenei endeavors for reprisal come true. By other words in the rest of the text as used by Khamenei, and that bear sense of ideological struggle and bad image as "*their filthy hand*" and repeating the noun *blood* in accordance with the noun *criminals*. As topic of the report is one of threat, we note many presences of workable vocabularies in this vein like "*revenge, sever revenge, warned, outpouring grief, plot and blood revenge,*" and which are also manifestations of ideological tussle.

#### 4.2. Quantitative Analyzing of Data

##### 4.2.1 Lexicalization in the Iranian Samples

By analyzing the lexical choice, it is approved that language is not arbitrary, as one of the discourse patterns. Our use of language, especially vocabulary, results from certain concepts like ideology, culture, reason, situation, and else. The quantitative analysis further approves this and the counts each category have scored. The four adopted categories, positive value, negative value, overlexicalization, and cultural imprint, are analyzed quantitatively from Fariclough's 1992 model integrating with Fowler's view (1991). As a sum, (515) is the total number of lexical choices in the Iranian reports. Among the four categories, overlexicalization gets the highest rank by the count (225) and percentage (49.5%). This is interpreted by the idea that the reporter using many terms for one issue is a matter of emphasis on the event, for example, which receives many lexical choices like *strike, event, heinous act, crime*, and else. These choices have a role in delivering the newspaper's ideology across to the reader, controlling their minds. The second rank goes to the negative value, as having the count (137) and the percentage (26.6%). Conversely, a positive value is at the third rank, scoring (64) (12.4%). The negative being higher than the positive is reasonably justified in terms of how the Iranian reporters represent the event negatively, and Trump as the decision-maker by the same negative evaluative expression reflects how ideological contested is manifested by the lexical choices. The last and the four rank is pertained to the cultural imprint by the score (59) (11.5%). This is again interpreted by the effect of the cutler, for example, religious culture, on language use and how language use is vividly in-principled. Table 1 and figure 1 clarify this analysis.

**Table 1.** Lexicalization Analysis in the Iranian Samples

n	Lexical Choice	Count	%	Example
1	Positive Value	64	12.4%	<i>Hero,</i>
2	Negative Value	137	26.6%	<i>Fooly, fiery fatal</i>
3	Overlexicalization	255	49.5%	<i>Murderers, devils, criminals</i>
4	Cultural imprint	59	11.5%	<i>Holy, Shiite, Imam, Insha Allah</i>
5	Sum	515	100%	

##### 4.2.2 Lexicalization in the American Samples

In toppling, the overwording classification recorded the count (282) with its percentage (49.1%). Overlexicalization category reflects the reporters' different views about one issue; the event here to assert one idea from different views. For example, Suleimani is represented by many vocabularies of one close meaning to assert his representation by this image to the reader. Next, we have negative value expressions, recording (190) (33%). Conversely, the negative evaluative expressions record the

third rank (63) (11%). At last, vocabularies of cultural imprint have the lowest rank by its count (39) and percentage (6.8%). Blow is detailed table for these counts and percentages:

**Table 2.** Lexical Choice Analysis of the American Corpus

n	Lexical Choice	Count	%	Example
1	Positive Value	63	11%	<i>Stunning, primitive, punitive</i>
2	Negative Value	190	33.1%	<i>Ruthless, terrorist, evil</i>
3	Overlexicalization	282	49.1%	<i>Decisive action, stunning strike, all-out war</i>
4	Cultural imprint	39	8.6%	<i>Liberal ,Democratic, pontificated, Imperialism</i>
5	Sum	574	100%	

### 4.3. Comparison of Results

#### 4.3.1. Quantitative Comparison

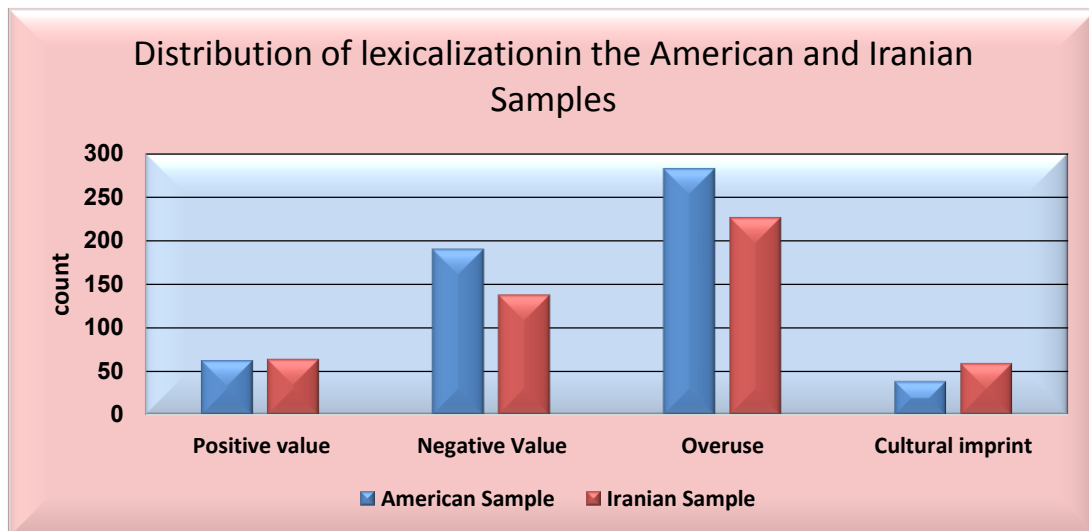
##### Statistical Comparison of Lexicalization in the American and Iranian Samples

Applying the Chi-square test on the model of the lexical choice in the light of the four categories of (positive value, negative value, overuse, and cultural imprint) is tackled, as presented in Table 3. The total computed Chi-square value is (3.197), and the p-value is (0.07), statistically insignificant. To take each category separately, stating whether there is a difference or not. The first rank goes to overlexicalization or overuse, recording the percentage (49.1%), about half the value of the total value. The lowest is occupied by the cultural imprint category, as it scores (6.8%). The computed value of overlexicalization is 5.99. Its p-value is (0.003). Being above the tabulated value (3.84), the computed value is significant in stating a difference between using the overuse category in the American and Iranian data. This is further asserted by the p-value (0.003), which is lesser than the standard level (0.05). The calculated Chi-square value of the lowest category, cultural imprint, is (4.08) with a p-value (0.04). Again, being above and lesser, then we have a significant difference in lexical choice manifestation concerning cultural imprint. The last to be approved of significant difference is in terms of the negative value expressions, scoring (8.59) as its computed Chi-square value, which is in comparison to the tabulated value (3.84), is the higher. Furthermore, (0.003) is its p-value, which is lesser than (0.05). Last and not least, positive value expression, as the fourth scrutinized category of lexical choice, shows insignificance statistical of the result analysis, as interpreted by the Chi-square test. Its computed value is (0.008), which is less than the value (3.84); the tabulated value, and again its p-value is (0.93), above 0.05. These values at (1) degree of freedom attain that the result of analyzing this category as a manifestation of the lexical choice category is insignificant; no difference between the American and Iranian samples concerning this variable.

**Table 3.** Chi-Square Test of Lexicalization

Lexical Choice	Iranian Data		American Data		Chi-sq	p-value
	Count	%	Count	%		
Positive Value	64	12.4%	63	11%	0.008	0.93
Negative Value	137	26.6%	190	33.1%	8.59	0.003
Overuse	225	49.5%	282	49.1%	5.99	0.014
Cultural Imprint	59	11.5%	39	6.8%	4.08	0.04
Total	<b>515</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>574</b>		<b>3.197</b>	<b>0.07</b>





**Figure 1.** Distribution of Lexicalization

#### 4.3.2 Qualitative Comparison

By analyzing the data qualitatively and quantitatively, it is observed that the event of killing Suleimani and al-Muhandis is comparative beyond measure in terms of representation. Let us launch from otherness since it is lucid and sententious at all levels of analysis, whether linguistically, ideologically.

Before stating a comparison in the light of the two analysis levels, we can adduce some introductory notes on the similarities and differences in terms of information related to the event. Both American and Iranian newspapers share information about the event; for example, al-Muhandis's killing in these newspapers is not much addressed like Suleimani's. This is due to the fact that al-Muhandis' killing is not premeditated, but accidentally died by his occurrence in Baghdad International Airport for greeting Suleimani where the operation is executed (Bulos, 2020). Such a fact is approved in the reports being only one from the American press that is specified for al-Muhandis killing. Even in Iranian press, through reading the reports of the newspaper, one or two may be topicalized for al-Muhandis killing. This again comes as a support to the just mentioned justification for the small size al-Muhandis death took in the newspaper. To be more rational in this shared justification, al-Muhandis, due to the close relation he has with Suleimani, in particular, and with Iran in general, is supposed to receive much attention in terms of his killing, but the case is that al-Muhandis is mentioned in separate title only two to three times. This all repeat the final end in that Suleimani is the central axis and target of the American airstrike. Even though the little address of al-Muhandis's death in the assigned newspaper does not mean he is an ordinary figure or that his death will not be met with high echo, the issue is entirely different. His death creates a dispute between Iraq and America. In short, Suleimani is killed sabotage while al-Muhandis is killed accidentally and untimely.

Turning to the operation itself and how it is represented differently. The operation is American in its order (ordered by Trump direction), and its execution (executed by unraveling identification of a person), as represented in the two news agencies. What they differ in is the type of military weapon that imbued the operation. American newspaper like NYT announced that Aerial vehicle or UMV is used for the killing. While Iranian newspaper like Tehran times says that American helicopter is used for executing the operation. This difference is justified in that the Americans have the ability to guide and control (by satellites) the UMV anywhere and strike any target. Conversely, by asserting helicopters as the aircraft that executed the strike, the Iranians reduce the strike affair.

Linguistically, lexical choices' otherness is apparent. At first, negative evaluative expressions are in toppling in both American and Iranian newspapers. With American ones, these negative-value vocabularies are used for describing Suleimani in the prime to both discrete him and downplay his reputation to the reader. The second being also represented with a negative evaluative expression is al-Muhandis. Similar to them, we have Khamani, Rouhani and others. Almost surely others like Saddam Hussein, Basher al-Assad, al-Baghdadi and some of the representative of al-Hashed al-Sha'abi. Such vocabularies are not restricted to a person, but also to groups, regimes, nations and else. Among the salient groups, doctrines, factions that are represented by negative meaning are QF, IRGC, HS, Shiite militia, Kataib Hezbollah, Hezbollah, Badr corps, Iran, Syria and else. The more be used expression is **terrorist group**, as a negative-ideological contested vocabulary. With the same news agency, the American one, the second subcategory of vocabulary, positive meaning, is employed for representing the event by adjectives that are starkly ideologically motivated. We cannot say the all the American reports that are assigned here for analysis use positive evaluative words for representing Trump as the second core of the study. Still, somehow conservative words are much used in this meanwhile. Words with a positive meaning in the American reports are hired for describing the event and the power of the American military and forces. Yet, as a person, there are no evidence words for representing Trump, for example.

Concerning the Iranian newspapers, the positive meaning expressions are far clear employed for representing Suleimani in the prime concern. Al-Muhandis is the other who is represented by positive evaluative vocabularies. The just mentioned groups, regimes and factions in the above paragraph are represented positively, especially the Shiite doctrine, as it is Suleimani and al-Muhandis' doctrine. Negatively, Trump, Pompeo and Esper are the trio named highly defined by negative lexical choices. America, Israel, and Saudi Arabia are the nations that are similarly represented by negative evaluative expressions. As groups, we have ISIS, Zionism, Takfirism and the culet. Words of cultural imprint are more straightforward in Iranian press than in Americans', which is manifested further in percentages. Religious culture is the pivotal one in its imprint in the selection of words like (Seyed, Ayatollah, Mullah, Hojjatolaeslam, Shiite and Sunnite).

## 5. Conclusions

The event under study is represented by the model units formed for this study. The prominent ones are negative value expression and overwording. American and Iranian reporters employ negative value expression in the representation of the murdering. These linguistic choices used by the news agencies reporters in portraying the event, each according to their ideological stance. Negative value expression and overwording are appealed to than the others. Suleimani and al-Muhandis are depicted differently in the two samples, as are the event and its major axis, the social players. In both the American and Iranian corpus, there are differences in how those social actors were represented, whether through actions or images. This disparity is established through the use of language as a technique. Positive value phrases are used for portraying Suleimani and Al-Muhandis in Iranian reporters using the defined language choices of the study model. Conversely, in the American reporter, negative value expressions are employed for this purpose.

Turning to ideology and its role, the event and its representation is highly affected by ideology. Separately, ideology is the more lucid macro strategy that is of a key role in the manifestation of the difference between the two samples concerning the representation of the event and the main social players. The reporters underpin on ideology to high extent in their use of language and its patterns. Islamic ideology, for instance, in the Iranian reports is far clear and manifested by language use. In other words, lexical choices of the Iranian reporters are highly of religious imprint in selecting words that are affected by the religious culture. In the American samples, conversely, it is observed the

impact of ideology, political ideology for example in the use of language. So, ideological manifestation through language use is not restricted to lexical choices in vain, but extends to have a key impact on all discourse patterns among which is wording.

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