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The language of American and Egyptian Arabic Newspapers

before and after the 25th of January Revolution:

A Critical Discourse Analysis

A Thesis:

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the Degree of Ph.D. in Linguistics**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

﴿رَبِّ أَوْزَعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَى
وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ وَأَصْلِحْ لِي فِي دُرِّيَّتِي
إِنِّي نُبْتُ إِلَيْكَ وَإِنِّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ﴾

(سورة الأحقاف: الآية 15)

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Abstract

This Study aims at investigating how language is used in American and Egyptian Arabic Newspapers to reflect specific ideologies and power relations in the specified stages in the study. It aims also at investigating the The Linguistic Features of the Language of editorials in English and Arabic newspapers so as to enrich the readers' awareness of perceiving ideologies in newspapers and help them to have a deeper understanding of newspapers and their language. the study falls into four chapters followed by a conclusion, an appendix and references.

The selected data is divided into three periods: from November 5, 2010 "Egyptian Parliament Elections" to January 24, 2011, and from January 25, 2011 to the stepping down of the former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on February 11, 2011, and from the stepping down of Mubarak to March 19, 2011. Events after the last mentioned period will not be tackled by the researcher.

The researcher has written up this thesis to study the language of American and Egyptian Arabic newspapers during the specified stages in the study by using an eclectic approach combining two theories which provide a critical discourse analysis of the language of the newspapers' editorials in order to show the relationship between language and ideology and how language is used to change reality. It also shows how far journalists and editors have changed their attitudes in the specified stages in this study.

The data of this study is collected from six newspapers; three American Newspapers: *Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times* and *Washington Post* and three Egyptian Arabic Newspapers: *Al-Ahram*, *Al-Wafd* and *Al-Masry-Alyoum*. The data of American newspapers has been collected from the Internet, whereas the data of Egyptian Arabic newspapers has been collected from archives of the selected newspapers.

Finally, regarding the conclusion and results, the researcher has reached the fact that the majority of writers and editors turned from one extreme to its opposite, from glorifying Mubarak and his regime to a fierce attack on them and the way they controlled the country during the last thirty three years.

This sudden change in the policies and the ideologies of the press, from total control to freedom of expression was a shocking contrast in the Press. They defended Mubarak and his regime until the very end of his abdication, they attacked the 25th revolution, and then they turned against him after stepping down and attacked his regime. This sudden change was remarkable for all those who understand the moral responsibility of the Press and the ethics it is supposed to adhere to and respect. This sudden change of language was remarkable (during and after) compared to the language before the 25th of January Revolution.

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Phonetic Conventions for Reading Transcribed Arabic Forms

1- Consonants

- /b/** Voiced bilabial plosive, as in / be:t/ (house)
- /d/** Voiced denti-alveolar plosive, non- emphatic, as in, /de:l/ (tail)
- /f/** Voiceless labio-dental fricative, as in, /fe:n/ (where)
- /g/** Voiced velar plosive, as in, / gidi:d/ (new)
- /h/** Glottal fricative, as in, / huwwa/ (he)
- /H/** Voiceless pharyngeal fricative, as in, / Hilm/ (dream)
- /q/** Voiceless uvular plosive, as in, /ʔ alqɑ :hirah/ (cairo)
- /k/** Voiceless vela plosive, as in, /kari:m/ (generous)
- /l/** Voiced dental- alveolar lateral, as in, / le:l/ (night)
- /m/** Voiced bilabial nasal, as in, /malH/ (salt)
- /n/** Voiced denti-alveolar nasal, as in, /nu:r/ (light)
- /r/** Voiced alveolar flap, as in, /rigl/ (leg)
- /s/** Voiceless alveolar fricative non-emphatic sibilant, as in, /samak/ (fish)
- /ʃ /** Voiceless palato-alveolar fricative, as in, /ʃ ams/ (sun)
- /t/** Voiceless denti-alveolar plosive non-emphatic, as in, /ti:n/ (fig)
- /w/** Voiced labio-velar semi- vowel, as in, /walad/ (boy)
- /x/** Voiceless uvular fricative, as in, /xo:x/ (peaches)
- /y/** Voiced palatal semi-vowel, as in, /yo:m/ (day)
- /z/** Voiced alveolar fricative, non-emphatic sibilant, as in, /ze:t/ (oil)
- /ʔ/** Glottal plosive, as in, /ʔalam/ (pen)
- /ɛ/** Voiced pharyngeal fricative, as in, / ɛa:li/ (high)
- /ʁ /** Voiced uvular fricative, as in, /ʁ a:li/ (expensive)

- Emphatic Consonants

/S/, / D/, /T/, /Z/ are emphatic or velarized consonants. They differ from the non-emphatic /s/, /d/, /t/, /z/ in the articulation of the emphatic consonants, the tongue is laterally expanded so as to fill the mouth.

- /S/** as in /So:t/ (sound, voice)
- /D/** as in /Dɑ ɣi:f/ (weak)
- /T/** as in /Tɑ :lib/ (student)
- /Z/** as in / Zɑ rf/ (envelope)

2. Vowels

/i/ Half- close to close front spread vowel, as in, /ʃ idd/ (pull) and long

/i:/

as in /ʃ idi:d/ (strong)

/e/ Mid to half-close front spread vowel, as in, /betna/ (our house) and

long **/e:/** as in /be:t/ (house)

/a/ Front open vowel, as in, /katab/ (he wrote) and long **/a:/** as in /kita:b/ (book)

/ɑ/ Back open vowel, as in, /Ta la b/ (request) and long **/ɑ:/** as in /Ta :lib/

(student)

/u/ Half-close back rounded vowel, as in /suxna/ (hot) and long **/u:/** as in

/suxu:na/ (heat)

/o/ Mid to half -close back rounded vowel, as in /yomnə/ and long **/o:/** as in

/yo:m/ /day/

- Length of vowel is marked by /:/
- Geminated consonants are indicated by doubling the consonant.

(Adapted from Ezzat, A. 1978)

Chapter one

Introduction

1. Introduction

Media in general and the Press in particular are among the most powerful institutions that disseminate and publicize the policies and ideologies of the ruling regime in a society. Governments, Leaders, Writers, and Editors play an influential role in shaping the issues of the society and setting the boundaries of what is talked about and how it is talked about.

The influence of mass media has been increasing over the past century, with increasing numbers of newspapers, television channels and the internet. We realize how important news is in our everyday life as most of our social, political, religious and moral knowledge is derived from the dozens of news reports we see and read every day. (We come across a number of articles in the daily Press, and they are dealing with the same issue but using different styles).

The perspective of this study is a critical discourse analysis. It involves a contrastive analysis of six newspapers. The focus of this contrastive study is to exhibit the type of a particular news event in the different newspapers 25th of January revolution and the related events during the three specified stages in this study. More specifically, this study critically examines the ways in which ideologies and policies have been constructed in American and Egyptian Arabic newspapers editorials.

The majority of the writers and editors turned from the one extreme to its opposite, from glorifying Mubarak and his regime to a fierce attack on them, and the way they controlled the country during thirty three years. This sudden change in the policies and the ideologies of the press, from total control to freedom of expression, was a shocking contrast in the Press.

They defended Mubarak and his regime until the very end of his abdication, they attacked the revolution, and then they turned against him after stepping down and attacked his regime.

It was shocking to see how most of the news reports have changed suddenly overnight, reflecting political hypocrisy. Only a small number of writers and publications did not suddenly change their position after more than 33 years of polishing the old regime. This sudden change of language was remarkable during and after compared to the language before the 25th of January Revolution.

An important area of analysis in relation to the 25th of January Revolution and the focus of the study, is the editorial, as the editorial aims to go beyond merely reporting the news. It allows the newspaper to address its readers directly by commenting on the news. It also interprets it for the reader because present-day readers are interested in information and are, consequently, at times unable to come to conclusions.

editorials have the potential to shape opinion, create reality and convey ideologies as they are written by editor-in-chief. A newspaper editorial also helps to construct the opinion of its reader by presenting its ideological stance on certain current issues by using critical discourse analysis. This study attempts to reveal hidden ideologies in newspaper editorials.

The language of newspaper editorials is by no means simple or easy, as the words used in editorials are meant to express their ideology, as the main function of a newspaper is to interpret the news by giving comments, on social and political issues, and therefore CDA helps to investigate the underlying relation between language and ideology.

The newspaper owner and the editorial writer have this power to control what the reader is exposed to. Those who hold dominant positions

are constantly seen to try to reassert their position of power because those who are not in power may attempt to seize power.

1.1. Rationale of the Study

This study covers a crucial period in history, as the Arab Countries which witnessed some dramatic incidents seven years ago which had an effect on the policy of most countries in the world, as a result of the Tunisian Revolution on December 17, 2010, the Egyptian Revolution on January 25, 2011, the Libyan Revolution on February 17, 2011, the Yemeni Revolution on February 18, 2011 and Syrian Revolution on March 15, 2011.

Being an Egyptian, the researcher is deeply affected by his homeland circumstances, so, he has chosen the 25th of January Egyptian Revolution to be his focus to analyze the language of newspaper editorials and the relationship of language with ideology and discourse in the language of American and Egyptian Arabic Newspapers in the specified stages in this study.

1.2. Hypothesis of the Study

The language of American and Egyptian Arabic newspapers has changed in one obvious way when Mubarak's regime fell. This change of language was remarkable during and after the 25th of January Revolution compared to the language before the revolution.

1.3. Limitations of the Study

The selected data will be divided into three periods: from November 5, 2010 "Egyptian Parliament Elections" to January 25, 2011, and from January 25, 2011 to the stepping down of the former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on February 11, 2011, and from the stepping down of Mubarak to March 19, 2011. Events after the last mentioned period will not be tackled by the researcher.