



Ain Shams University

Faculty of Post-graduate Childhood Studies

Department of Mass Communication/Children Culture

**Image of Islam on the Websites of Foreign Electronic
Newspapers and Its Relations to the Attitudes of a Sample of
Egyptian Adolescents**

An Applied Study

A Thesis Submitted to Partial Fulfillment for the Achievement
of PHD in Mass Communication/ Children Culture Studies

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to the memory of my father who passed away while I was young, may Allah shower him with mercy and admit him to the highest ranks in paradise with the Prophets, the truthful, the martyrs, and the righteous and to my mother who used to happily sacrifice her basic needs for mine, and with great anticipation longed for the day when I would finish pursuing my work, may Allah grant her health, second to my sweetheart and my son ,third to my brother and sister for their kind support and constant prayers.

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Abstract

Study title: Image of Islam on the Websites of Foreign Electronic Newspapers and Its Relations to the Attitudes of a Sample of Egyptian Adolescents

An Applied Study

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The study aims to identify image of Islam on the websites of foreign electronic newspapers and its relation to the attitudes of some Egyptian adolescents towards it.

Our study belongs to the descriptive studies which aim at classifying data and facts gathered from journalism content to obtain information and accurate data and to know the feedback of the study population.

Our current study depends on media survey method as it presents accurate scientific effort which helps us obtain data and information about the image of Islam on the foreign electronic newspapers and its relation to the attitude of some Egyptian adolescents.

The study only focuses on the Image of Islam on the foreign electronic newspapers namely *The New York Times* and *The Independent*.

The study only focuses on some Egyptian adolescents who study English language at Egyptian universities.

The analytical study is applied on the foreign electronic newspapers of *The New York Times* and *The Independent* from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017.

The researcher designed a coding sheet to analyze the websites of *The New York Times* and *The Independent*. The researcher also designs a questionnaire in English language to collect data from Egyptian adolescents who study English language.

Key words:

- Image of Islam
- Foreign electronic newspapers
- Egyptian adolescents

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The Introduction

Mass media have an immense power in influencing how audience members perceive their world. This is especially true as the mass media have introduced places and people of the world that the viewing audience might never get to experience first-hand. The exclusivity of mass media to introduce foreign people and foreign cultures to their viewers allows the mass media to define people and their characteristics. The audience will likely be influenced into believing that by watching media content that they know the people shown and their true nature.

According to Jackson, Mass media associates Islam and Muslims with terrorism, portraying the religion and the group most frequently as unreasonable, fundamentalist, and/or prone to reactive violence . The mass media portray Muslims and Arabs as being blatantly violent individuals that resort to the use of terrorism. This completely disregards the fact that only a small percentage of Muslims and Arabs are associated with terrorist groups and terrorism in general.¹

The Muslims and Arabs of the world have become associated with uncivilized behavior as it pertains to their representations in the mass media. The pre-9/11 representations of Muslims and Arabs had them threatening Americans in fictitious (Hollywood films) and non-fictitious (Iranian-Hostage Crisis, Beirut barrack bombings, and the oil crisis of the 1970s) portrayals. This evolved into the representation of Islamic-Arab terrorists who attempt to strike at the United States, which was given some credibility as truthful with the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The result of the September 11th attacks was that the mass media began to report more stories and created stories involving terrorists of Muslim and Arab descent. The representations primarily deal with Muslims and Arabs being a threat to the United States and its citizens. This one-sided representation of these people could likely lead to viewers believing that