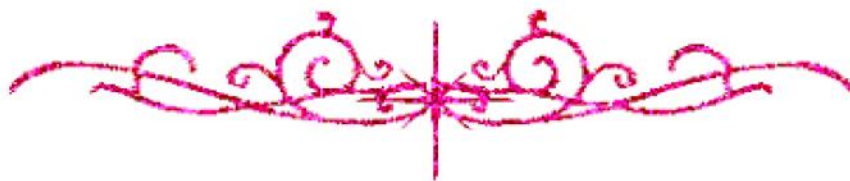


بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم





شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الالكتروني والميكرو فيلم



جامعة عين شمس

التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

قسم

نقسم بالله العظيم أن المادة التي تم توثيقها وتسجيلها
علي هذه الأقراص المدمجة قد أعدت دون أية تغيرات



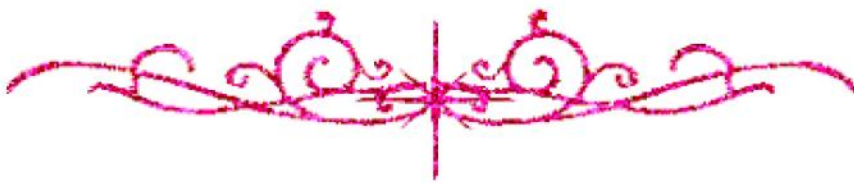
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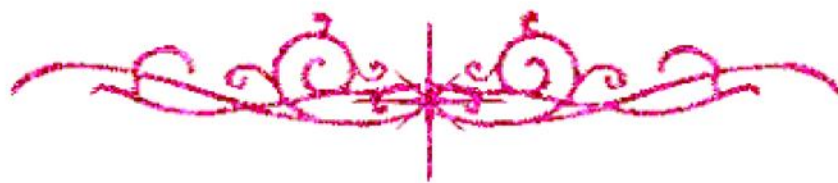


بعض الوثائق الأصلية تالفة





بالرسالة صفحات
لم ترد بالأصل





Ain Shams University
Faculty of Al-Asun
Department of English



Analyzing Appraisal in Major and Bipolar Depression Patients' Narratives in Mental Health Forums: A Corpus-based Study

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of MA in Linguistics

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2020

DEDICATION

To

We'am M. Qassem

A loving partner and a caring wife

&

Bacem A. Essam

A once in a lifetime friend

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List of Abbreviations

<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Stands for</i>
<i>BD</i>	: Bipolar Disorder
<i>CN</i>	: Corresponding Narrative
<i>CQL</i>	: Corpus Query Language
<i>DSM-IV</i>	: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
<i>MDD</i>	: Major Depressive Disorder
<i>PoS</i>	: Part of Speech
<i>SFAs</i>	: Syntactic Fields of Adjectives
<i>SFL</i>	: Systemic Functional Linguistics
<i>J.*</i>	: All types of Adjectives
<i>VV</i>	: Verb, Base Form
<i>IN</i>	: Preposition, Subordinating Conjunction
<i>TO</i>	: Infinitive ‘to’
<i>IN/that</i>	: ‘That’ as Subordinator
<i>WRB</i>	: Wh-Adverb
<i>PP</i>	: Personal Pronoun
<i>V.*</i>	: All Verb Types

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Abstract

The present study investigated the language of Appraisal in the written narratives of individuals diagnosed with one of two mental health disorders, namely, Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) and Bipolar Disorder (BD). The study aimed at revealing how these individuals feel about themselves, i.e., the types of emotion that characterize their narratives, how they judge others, and how they appreciate phenomena related to their disorders. Hence, the study adopted as its theoretical framework the Appraisal Theory (Martin & White, 2005) with its three attitude sub-systems of Affect, Judgement, and Appreciation. To do so, narratives written by patients who self-reported their diagnoses with either disorder were collected from online mental health forums. These narratives were then combined in two separate corpora: MDD corpus and BD corpus. For the purposes of locating expressions of Attitudinal evaluation in the two corpora, corpus analytic tools were used with the help of syntactic fields of adjectives. The analysis showed that patients of both disorders mainly focused on Judgment in their evaluations. Evaluations from Affect were found to be more frequent than Appreciation in the BD narratives, whereas Appreciation was more frequent in the MDD narratives. The subcategories of Capacity and Propriety encompassed most of the Judgment evaluations in MDD and BD narratives. Also, Pleasure, Misery, and Fear were, respectively, the three most frequent types of emotion in both corpora. With regard to Appreciation, the subtypes of Complexity, Valuation, and Quality were, respectively, the most frequent.

Keywords: Appraisal Theory, Corpus Linguistics, Syntactic Fields of Adjectives, Major Depression, Bipolar Depression

0.0 Introduction

Language provides rich insights into studying and revealing different aspects of mental disorders in general, and depression in specific. Patients with mental health disorders narrate their reflections on their health conditions oftentimes to ask for support, fight the mental health stigma, or give explanations for certain related behaviors. By analyzing the language of such narratives, clearer perception and deeper understanding of the nature of mental health disorders could be obtained (Coppersmith et al, 2015; Gómez, 2012). According to Bloom et al. (2012), mental health disorders will have a dramatic impact on productivity and quality of life, since their global costs will account for the loss of an additional US\$ 16.1 trillion over the following 20 years.

The present study applies Appraisal Theory (Martin and White, 2005) to the narratives of individuals diagnosed with one of two mental health disorders, namely, Major Depression Disorder (MDD) and Bipolar Disorder (BD). The study aims at investigating the attitudinal evaluations made by patients of both disorders. Specifically, the study explores how these individuals feel about themselves – that is to say, which types of emotion dominate their narratives, how they judge others, and how they appreciate the related phenomena to their disorders.

Previous research suggests systematic approaches to derive well-grounded linguistic resources related to the representation of emotion through language. This process, in linguistics, is referred to as appraisal. Appraisal Theory attends to how speakers express evaluation, attitude, and emotions through language (Martin & White, 2005).

Depression is one of the mental disorders that were proven to alter both written and spoken language. This is because depressed individuals exhibit increased negative thinking, self-focus, and negative emotions (Rude et al, 2004). MDD is one of the many types of depression that show an association with dysfunction in brain regions involved in language