



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية  
التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكرو فيلم

# بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



**MONA MAGHRABY**



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التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكرو فيلم



# شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكرو فيلم



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# جامعة عين شمس

## التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

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**MONA MAGHRABY**



# **The Representation of Syrian Refugees from the Perspective of the Western Communities on Facebook: Corpus-based Multimodal Cognitive Critical Discourse Analysis**

A thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Degree of Master of Arts in Linguistics

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## Abstract

The Syrian refugees have been grabbing the global attention. Their images have widely spread on the social networking sites, such as Facebook. Consequently, western commentators show their opinions and express their feelings towards the Syrian refugee issues. The refugees flee to the western communities in search for a safe haven and start a new life after their homes have been destroyed in the Civil War. As a result of bearing the burden of the refugees, the western commentators argue for or against the existence of the refugees in the west. In this regard, such controversial comments on Facebook are analyzed under the framework of the Critical Discourse Analysis set by Van Dijk. The rationale of adopting this framework is to demonstrate the western commentators' ideology and the representation of the Self and the Other, and explain power relations and racism. Such notions are discussed through the use of the appraisal model, the conceptual metaphor theory, and the semiotic choices in the approach of Machin and Mayr (2012). To illustrate, the appraisal model focuses on the emotions of both the western commentators and the Syrian refugees. It also shows how the host western countries suffer from the continuous inflow of the refugees. On the other hand, the conceptual metaphor theory tackles the cognitive representation of the Syrian refugees: their behaviour, lifestyle, and culture, and the causes of their victimization. In addition, the conceptual metaphor theory tackles the cognitive image of the Syrian refugees in the minds of the western commentators. It also plays a persuasive role in expressing opinions and defending stances. The researcher uses UAM CorpusTool to manually annotate the appraising items and the metaphorical expressions in the data. Then the results are automatically retrieved to find out the ideologies. Finally, the refugees' thirty images on the European borders, in the camps, and while fleeing are also analyzed. The visual representation of the refugees is performed by analyzing the semiotic choices developed by Machin and Mayr (2012). Therefore, the study is based on quantitative analysis and qualitative analysis.

**Keywords:** Critical Discourse Analysis, Appraisal Model, Conceptual Metaphor, UAM CorpusTool, semiotic choices, Syrian refugees





## **Acknowledgements**

In the name of Allah, the most Merciful, the most Gracious. All praise and gratitude are due to Allah whose grace grants me the power to accomplish this thesis. He also grants me people who have helped and encouraged me a lot.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to my Prof. Dr. Mona Fouad for her patience, motivation and valuable comments. I am thankful for her pieces of advice and support, and above all her high sense of responsibility.

I would like to show my deep gratitude to Dr. Nihal Nagi for her fruitful comments and advice. She supported me a lot of times in many situations, reflecting her patience and responsibility. Her worthy criticism also contributes to the achievement of the thesis.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the examining committee for their approval to participate in examining the thesis and providing me with fruitful comments and sincere advice.

My warm thanks go to Dr. Heba Badr, Dr. Rania Hamdy, and Dr. Ramy Shabara who inspire me with promising ideas.

I owe special thanks to my friends Mariam Ahmad, Mai Selim, Muhammad Subry, Aya Khaled, Aya Fahd, Israa AbdelZaher, Hend Ibrahim, Dina Zenhom, and Marwa Hassan for their constant help and support.

Last but not least, I am deeply grateful and thankful to my supportive parents: Mr. Anas Zahra and Mrs. Nagwa Muhammad Seif who have all the credit for what I am now. I would like to extend my gratitude to my motivating husband Ibrahim Serag, my mother-in-law Dr. Dalia Salaheldeen, my daughters Mariam and Dalia, my brother Muhammad Anas, and his wife Dr. Heba Serag and my nephews Yassin and Ali for their continuous help and inspiration.



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