



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية
التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكرو فيلم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



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شبكة المعلومات الجامعية
التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم



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جامعة عين شمس

التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

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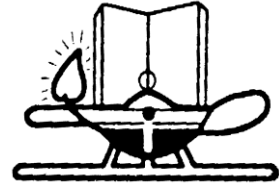


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A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Eulogies Delivered
in Honor of the American Boxer Muhammad Ali

M.A. Thesis in Linguistics

Submitted to the Department of English Language and Literature

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2021

DEDICATION

TO

MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Summary

This study is conducted on 12 eulogies delivered in honor of the American boxer Muhammad Ali. I adopt the approach of discourse-historical analysis (DHA) using some of the tools of corpus linguistics and Halliday's systematic functional linguistics (SFL). I track down the messages conveyed by the eulogists concerning the heated sociopolitical atmosphere in America at the time of Ali's death through their portrayal of him. Ali has passed away at a time when xenophobia against immigrants, especially Muslims, prevailed in the country and when the African American community suffered from police brutality. The results showed that the majority of the African American speakers highlighted Ali's racial pride and the positive role Islam played in his life.

Thesis Title: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Eulogies Delivered in Honor of the American Boxer Muhammad Ali

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Abstract

This study aims at tracing the social and political messages inherent in 12 eulogies delivered in a memorial service for the American boxer Muhammad Ali on June 10, 2016. The eulogies are transcribed manually from a video downloaded from *YouTube*. As a Black American Muslim, Muhammad Ali's identity was significant to the sociopolitical situation in America at the time of his death. America, by the time of Ali's death, had witnessed a series of extrajudicial killings of African Americans. Furthermore, Ali's death coincided with the 2016 American presidential elections during which there were calls to prohibit Muslims from entering the USA. This sociopolitical situation inevitably made a great impact on the eulogies delivered for Ali. In this study, I adopt the qualitative approach of discourse-historical analysis (DHA) making use of some of the quantitative research tools of corpus linguistics. In the quantitative part of the analysis, I explore the concordance lines and frequencies of relevant keywords and references. Subsequently, a qualitative analysis is conducted to gain insight into the sociopolitical undertones in the eulogists' representation of Ali drawing on Halliday's systematic functional linguistics (SFL) tools. The results show that most of the African American speakers promoted racial pride by stressing Ali's own racial pride and marking certain incidents and movements from African American history that corresponded to the current *Black Lives Matter* movement. Moreover, some speakers highlighted the role of Islam in making Ali

avoid wars and violence at a time when the American government engaged in bloody conflicts.

Keywords: Eulogies, discourse-historical analysis, systematic functional linguistics, corpus linguistics, sociopolitical discourse.

Acknowledgements

Alhamdulillah (all praise and thanks are due to Allah) for granting me the opportunity to learn about and experience the magic of one of His innumerable blessings, language.

Alhamdulillah for reminding me of His ayah,

"قُلْ لَوْ كَانَ الْبَحْرُ مِدَادًا لَكَلِمَاتِ رَبِّي لَنَفِدَ الْبَحْرُ قَبْلَ أَنْ تَنفَدَ كَلِمَاتُ رَبِّي وَلَوْ جِئْنَا بِمِثْلِهِ مَدَدًا"

(القرآن الكريم، سورة الكهف، الآية 109)

“Say [Prophet], ‘If the whole ocean were ink for writing the words of my Lord, it would run dry before those words were exhausted’– even if We were to add another ocean to it” (Quran 18:109, Oxford World's Classics edition).

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisors, Prof. Nadia Shalaby and Dr. Neveen Alsaeed, for their guidance and support. They have always treated me with respect and great patience, and from the start they made me feel like a family member and not just a candidate; they have taught me that the relationship between a candidate and a supervisor is between humans in the first place. My gratitude is extended to my colleague Dr. Rana El-Kholy who gave me insightful comments on my research proposal, provided me with resources on systematic functional linguistics (SFL), and helped me in the first stage of my analysis.

Secondly, I wish to thank my beautiful colleague Ms. Nayerah for being such a supportive companion and a great coworker. I also wish to express my gratitude to Ms. Nermine Hamed and Ms. Israa Kassim for proofreading my M.A. proposal. I am forever grateful to them for our little discussions that have always filled me with ideas.

Finally, I want to give a special thank you to my family members (my parents, sister, and brothers) and friends (Jasmine, Noha, and Abeer) for being always a source of hope and comfort.

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