

Modern Standard Arabic Online News Discourse of Men and Women: Corpus-Based Analysis

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Abstract: Arab society treats their women differently compared to men. Arab women, in general, faced restrictions which limit their social participation. In contrast, Arab men dominate most economical, social, and political activities, thus acquiring the highest social hierarchy position. Men also enjoy the freedom of choice and making their own decision, while, women are forced to obey the male members of her family based on the male-guardian system. Over the last two decades, mass media has recorded struggles between the group demanding more rights and freedom for women in the Arab region and the conservative preserving the fundamental of Arab's tribal cultural practices and Islam's teaching. Thus, the present study investigates the representations of m(a/e)n and wom(a/e)n by using Corpus linguistics tools. The study analyses language forms used to represent Arab m(a/e)n and wom(a/e)n in modern standard Arabic online news coverage using AntConc software. The corpus data used in this study consists of 25 news articles each gathered from five different Arabic news institutions namely Elkhobar of Algiers, Addustour of Jordan, Alwatan of Kuwait, Alyaum and Al-Jazirah of Saudi Arabia, published between November 2014 and October 2015. These news outlets represent the diversity of Arab world, as the outlets operate in different Arab countries, carry different political alignment, which findings will come out with different points of view in representing both gender men and women. The quantitative result of corpus data then will be analysed using the qualitative approach based on the textual-oriented Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of Fairclough and media discourse of Ruth Wodak. The result shows that the news outlets have a different way of portraying Arab women and their men according to their ideologies and political stance. Despite that, the command stereotype of Arab women is still preserved in the news discourses. Thus, at the end of the study, the researchers hope to reveal the outlets' stand on this issue, highlighting the hidden ideologies at the back of the struggles in the construction of Arabic online news discourses around gender issues.

Keywords: Women, Gender, Arabic Online news, Critical Discourse Analysis, Corpus

1. Introduction

The most command stereotype portraying Arab women (AW) in mass media, mainly the Western media is passive in contrast to Arab men who dominate almost everything, including their women. Hence, mass media often portrayed AW as silent, submissive, veiled, live under oppression, victims of gender segregation and suffering under male domination. Women have limit present and role in Arab societies. Thus they were marginalised, secluded and often confined to the private sphere. The Arab tribal cultural practices also emphasise the notion of male patriarchy, which promotes men's idea as the sole provider (breadwinner) for the family. Hence, men dominate everything, including deciding for their women. Thus, women are placed

under the system of male-guardian regardless of their age. Under this system, a woman has tied to her family male member (her father or brother or grandfather or her husband when she has married) responsible for making decisions on her behalf. Moreover, many Islamic conservative scholars (ulama) utilise the rigid interpretation of Islamic teaching and shariah law to back Arab cultural practices. They argued that the 'over-protection' of women is to safeguard women, their dignity and honour.

Despite these stereotypes on AW, the position of women in Arab societies is widely diverse in the Arab world, expanding from Oman at the most Eastern part of the Arab region to Morocco, situated at the most Western part of the Arab countries. Arab countries are also hugely different in terms of their economic situation, political system and social tradition. Arab countries in the Arab Gulf are the rich countries that govern mostly by monarch system. In comparison, the Arab countries in Northern Africa are mostly governed by the system of presidency. Besides, women's position may differ in rural areas compared to urban and big cities of the same country. With the influence of globalisation, some Arab cities and metropolitans such as Dubai, Manama, Jeddah and Doha treat women differently than other Arab cities that received less foreign influences. Within this diversity framework, the Tunisian women are highly regarded as the best example of AW who enjoy independence, freedom, rights, and equality to their men (Rubin, 2007, al-Maliki *et al.*, 2012). Tunisian women are more educated, actively involved in the labour force and participate actively in the politic and civil sphere than other women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

In contrast, Saudi women faced many restrictions which limit their participation in social activities. Different from Tunisian women, Saudi law does not guarantee equal rights for women. On top of that, regardless of her age, Saudi women are subject to a male guardian system that again barred women from being independent.

Thus, it is vital to examine the way modern standard Arabic online news of *five* different Arabic news institutions namely *Elkhabar* of Algeria, *Addustour* of Jordan, *Alwatan* of Kuwait, *Alyaum* and *Al-Jazirah* of Saudi Arabia. These news outlets operate in different Arab countries to cover AW's diversity in various Arab countries. Hence, findings will come out with different points of view in representing both gender men and women. Thus, this study aims to examine language forms used to represent both Arab m(a/e)n and wom(a/e)n in modern standard Arabic online news coverage between November 2014 and October 2015.

2. Literature Review

Previous studies (Biber *et al.*, 1999; Kjellmer, 1986; Romaine, 2001) have examined women's linguistic representations by comparing against men. The most significant result of these studies is that *man* far outnumbers *women* in corpus data, including spoken and written language corpora. More specifically on Arabic language Sadiqi's (2003: 128-146) analysis of Moroccan Arabic highlighted that Arabic (including the modern standard Arabic) has a specific gender grammar use, which separates between masculine and feminine. Similarly, other world significant languages such as France, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Hebrew. In contrast, Bengali, Persian, Turkish, Japanese and Malay are among the genderless languages. Pearce (2008) in a study focusing on collocation of *man* and *woman* in the British National Corpus (BNC), found that adjectives characterised women are mostly based to their physical appearance, while for men it is based on their physical strength. Kaufer and Al-Malki (2009) conducted a more specific study focusing on Saudi women representations in news articles of both Western and Arabic sources. They found unique lexical items associated with women

such as 'discrimination', 'family', 'guardian', 'opportunity', 'religion', and 'segregation'. This has led them to concluded that media often portrayed women as "weak and passive". Regarding the mass media role in addressing the under-representation of women in the media, Shameer (2016) highlighted that the media could highlight women's representation in their societies and raise any issue pertaining women to get the vast audience's attention.

Not all AW are unfortunate to live under oppression and treated unjustly by the society. Women in Saudi Arabia are distinctive as this area has been the most impenetrable to outside influences. While women's roles in many other Arab countries have witnessed significant changes, women's development in Saudi Arabia has been relatively slower. Thus, Saudi women's typical stereotypes are they cannot drive cars, disallowed from practising sports, are required to wear the headscarf covering their hair and subjected to a male guardian (Harun *et al.*, 2020). However, the lack of female involvement in the work arena cannot be solely attributed to traditional ulama's role. The prevailing cultural norms, which are sometimes of tribal, have put pressures on women's ability to involve themselves in the economic activities in Saudi Arabia (Al-Rasheed, 2013). Saudi Arabia represents a unique and significant case among Arab countries. Housing the two most holy sites for Muslims (Mecca and Medina), Saudi Arabia is symbolically the global centre of attention regarding Islamic issues (Harun *et al.*, 2018).

On the other hand, Tunisia has gone through many processes of a revolution starting from its independence from France and more recently massively hit by the wave of so-called the Arab Spring which caused the 'Jasmine Revolution' in 2011 (Ismail *et al.*, 2018). These significantly critical historical events have brought significant reform in the term of social and political condition in the country, which includes women's position almost equal to men (Ismail, 2019). Caid Essebsi the Tunisian President who governed from December 2014 until July 2019 after winning the country first free presidential election after the Arab Spring is highly praised for his effort to tackle women issues in Tunisia. Under his presidency term, many efforts have been made to uplift Tunisian women's position in society.

Previous literatures (Naomi Sakr, 2009; Soraya Altorki, 2012; Shannon, 2014, Harun *et al.*, 2018, Harun *et al.*, 2020) on AW in the media have examined the media coverage on many issues related to women. These studies revealed that mass media always tend to depict AW's stereotypical images, which relate the previous findings that show women are mostly being portrayed as being exotic and erotic (Hamdan, 2005) or as victims of oppression and the practice of gender segregation. Taher (2019), furthermore argued that these negative representations of women are rooted in the notion of Orientalism and the 'negative other' representation of Islam and the Muslim women in general found mostly in the stereotype of 'Western' media discourses.

Different news institutions have produced different narratives of Saudi women even though the media supposed to be impartial in its coverage of women's issues. Kabgani (2012), in the analysis of Guardian news reports on women, argued that the news coverage does not become entirely impartial and neutral as the reputable news institution widely claims it. In contrast, Elyas *et al.*, 2020 found that Muslim women in general and Saudi women, in particular, are portrayed in the news reports as active social actors in various events and carry different roles and positions in their societies. This positive finding emphasised similar findings of previous studies done by Shahrani (2015) and Al-Sudairy (2017).

3. Methodology

The study has gathered corpora data for a specific purpose language analysis consisting of a collection of modern standard Arabic online news articles on AW. These online news articles are sourced from various prominent modern standard Arabic news outlets representing the different background of historical, social, political, and economic backgrounds of each news institution. To meet this study's aim, five modern standard Arabic news institutions are selected for their news coverage of AW. These news institutions are *Elkhabar* of Algiers, *Addustour* of Jordan, *Alwatan* of Kuwait, *Alyaum* and *Al-Jazirah* of Saudi Arabia. Each of these five news outlets provides 25 news articles published between November 2014 and October 2015. Therefore, this study's data consists of 125 modern standard Arabic online news articles that have 71,239 words.

The period specified for this study is selected based on the significant essential events happened during that time in the Arab region. These critical events carry huge impacts on the position of women in the MENA region. First, 2014 is the final year of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia reign before King Salman was replaced in early 2015. King Abdullah is highly regarded for his genuine effort to improve women position in Saudi Arabia (Harun *et al.*, 2018). After King Salman ascended to the throne, he continues the previous ruler's efforts to set more policies to place women in a better social position. As previously mentioned, Tunisia within this time frame was under the leadership of Essebsi after the country came out from the 'Jasmine Revolution' which happened in the so-called the 2011 Arab Spring (Ismail, 2019). Essebsi brought in many reforms for Tunisian toward more democratic country after the overthrow of Ben Ali dictatorship. Other Arab countries such as Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Bahrain, Morocco, Libya and Algeria also recorded significant social and political changes resulting from the so-called the Arab Spring that happened in 2011 up until 2013 (Ismail, 2019). Finally, the internet revolution and the emergence of social media have promoted more freedom of expression among Arab people in which more issues pertaining women have been highlighted and discuss comprehensively (Ismail, 2019, Harun *et al.*, 2020).

In the next step, online news articles are converted into electronic texts to collect corpus data for language analysis. The corpus was then analysed using corpus analysis software developed by Laurence Anthony from Waseda University, Japan, known as AntConc Software. The present study utilises AntConc Software version 3.5.8 (windows) date 18 February 2019. The aim of utilising corpus analysis software is to obtain valuable qualitative data of keywords and wordlist in the corpus data. These quantitative data are beneficial for the quantitative analysis of online news articles. However, with the conference organiser's limitation, the present article will only focus on keywords of both men and women by focusing on the adjectives, pronouns, nouns, and verbs. Besides, the analysis will only show the general keywords (general overview) of the result without going into in-depth detail of comparing the five news outlets involved in this study.

4. Results and Discussion

The main findings and analysis results are divided into two sections and based on two tables (Table 1 and Table 2). These two tables are used to provide a summary of the most important findings. The first table (Table 1), which relates to the first section of the analysis, focuses on adjectives, pronouns, and nouns. Next, the second table (Table 2) concentrates on the analysis of verbs associated with both m(a/e)n and wom(a/e)n by looking at three semantic values

namely: the positive, negative, and neutral connotations of the verbs in use. The result and discussion details are as follow:

Table 1 below shows a list of adjectives, pronouns and nouns, which describe males and females and their representation in three sides: Positive, Neutral or Negative. The general observation finds that there is an imbalance in positive, neutral and negative scores. For instance, in terms of positive adjective for males, the analysis found 13 keywords. In comparison, the female has two more adjectives keywords than male. Moreover, there is no neutral adjective recorded from the corpus data, but only one neutral pronoun and 13 neutral nouns were found in the data. Thus, it is safe to conclude that, the analytical result shows that the corpus data contains more towards the positive side of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives than negative. Whilst the neutral nouns, pronouns and adjectives scored the lowest of all these three semantic connotation values.

The analysis of corpus data also revealed that both genders' values are portrayed differently according to positive and negative ways. In the corpus data, men are most often represented as a dominant person compared to women on various issues. For example, the news reported that men are commonly involved in professional jobs such as depicted them as active participation in investment sectors *الاستثمارات* and development projects *المشروعات*. These two economic activities that carry enormous economic and social impacts recorded AW's lowest participation in the corpus data. Hence, the sectors are dominated by men. Moreover, the corpus data also indicated that the role of men commonly shows their role in overcoming challenges *التحديات*, particularly in safeguarding *الامنية* the nation's safety and stability. Usually, everything related to security portrays by men as a strong and courageous person. Which resulted in portraying the significance of men position in Arab societies. In contrast, it is rare to find a news article that reports Arab women as involved in protecting their country from the enemies. Besides, men are mostly represented as a head, leader *رئيس* and the most prominent person judged by their roles in society compared to women. It shows that when it comes to making decisions and dealing with crucial situations, men's role is significantly present in the corpus data. Consider the following news extract:

(1 إدريس اليزمي رئيس المجلس الوطني لحقوق الإنسان

(...Idris Alyazmi the President of the national council on human rights...)

However, men are not always portrayed as a perfect person. In some circumstances, men are negatively represented as a person who is likely to lose their patience quickly, bad-tempered and angry with some keywords like *لا صبر* (lose patience). For example:

(2 فالرجل أو أهله، لا صبر لديهم لانتظار المحرمة

(...thus, the man quickly lost his temper when waiting for his wife...)

In addition to that, men are also portrayed negatively as most commonly involved in social problems such as drug addiction *الإدمان*, *المخدرات*, *الافيون*, and infection with Aids *الإيدز*, compared to women. For instance, the news stated:

(3 أن البرنامج الوقائي لإدارة مكافحة المخدرات يتضمن علاج المدمنين في مركز علاج الإدمان

(...the prevention programme for drug addiction consists of treatments for drug addicts at the rehabilitation centre...)

Nevertheless, this case has been reported only once out of 25 cases to show that men are less involved in a negative way. Furthermore, the worst cases involve men for their involvement in serious crimes *الجريمة* such as murder, robbery and terrorism activities. For example:

(4 أن الجريمة المنظمة وخاصة الإرهاب هو التحدي الذي سيواجهه قادة الشرطة في المستقبل

(... organised crime especially the terrorism is the greatest challenge faced by a policeman in future...)

On the other hand, it might sound too clichéd when Arab women *المرأة* involved in non-serious activities which carry massive impact in real social life, but it is the reality. Hence, emphasised the command stereotype of women representations in the mass media. Thus, women often are portrayed as a mother, a homemaker, a victim, passive, submissive, obedient, compliant, silenced, veiled and so on. However, they do have a specific position in society. For instance, the news highlights their contribution in developing their community and their country. They highlighted for their effort in fighting for their rights *بحقوق النساء* to be heard in the community. For instance:

- (5 أن المطالبة بحقوق النساء تتطلب تضافر جهود العمل المؤسسياتي
(...the fight for women's rights need collaboration from various women organisations...)
Besides, in a very positive way, women have also gained international recognition *جائزة نوبل* for their achievement in fighting for their rights and freedom. It has been reported in the news article:
(6 ملالا تتسلم جائزة نوبل الأربعاء وتعرض ثوبها المضرج بدمائها أمام العالم
(...on Wednesday, Malala received the Nobel prize and showed to the world her cloth covered in blood...))

However, the proportion of women's achievements is low compared to men. In some cases, though, they can also come out with brilliant ideas and have significant participation in many fields such as in the field of education, health, society, and environment. Besides, women are always represented as having disadvantages, mainly when dealing with the emotional part. Sometimes, they could not control their feeling and are portrayed as having too much concern or worry *القلق والتوتر*, for example, that has been reported in the article:

- (7 أصبت بحالة من القلق والتوتر لم أشهد مثلها طوال حياتي
(...I felt nervous and worried so much which I have never felt before in my life...)
Also, women have been reported as a victim in sexual harassment and violence such as:
(8 يطالب المنتدى بالتنصيص على وجوب حماية المرأة الموظفة من التحرش الجنسي
(...the community is continuously asking for legal action to prevent working women from sexual abuse...))

However, sometimes it is almost surprising when the news reported that women have been arrested and punished for drinking alcohol *الكحول*, which is prohibited among Muslims in Arab countries. For example, the issue has been reported in the news article:

- (9 كشفت رسمة توضيحية، القبض على 1632 امرأة لشربهن الكحول
(...the graph showed 1632 women had been arrested for drinking alcohol...))

Moving into the another not less important part of the analysis, which deals with the neutral element. This neutral element refers to the process of portraying to join participation among Arab men and women. For example, both genders are mostly reported in articles that relate to marriage *الزواج*, family *الأسرة*, and daily social activities *المجتمع* such as shopping, vacation, travelling and taking care of their family. The most frequent result is the marriage as shown in the table neutral activities, followed by society's role and then, the institution of the family. For example, in marriage and family, the role of husband and wife is vital in making sure their family and children are well provided with all needs like welfare, accommodation, education, etc. Besides, parents and children need to know their responsibilities to each other.

To sum up, the results are predictable in showing Arab women nowadays, which indicated the continues of command stereotype of portraying AW in the media discourse. Although AW's

participation showed a steady change significantly in the last ten years, the domination of men is still intact in Arab society. Women's role is still lack compared to men in various fields, particularly the sectors which involve serious participation of social actors such as politic, businesses, investment, security and defence. AW involvement is still limited to family matters, women activities and so on. Moreover, males and females are limitedly being represented in matters that relate to marriage and family issues.

Table 1: List of Adjectives, Pronouns and Nouns: Describe Males and Females, and Their Representation; Positive, Neutral and Negative

Noun (اسم)	Positive		Neutral	Negative	
	Male	Female		Male	Female
Person	الرجل-man الشيخ-tribe leader رئيس-leader	المرأة- female النساء- women السعودية- Saudi's women الموظفة- women officer البنيت- daughter الخليجية- Arab Gulf women الفتاة- teenagers			
Activities	القطاع-sector مشروع-project العسكرية- military وزارة-ministry الاقتصادية-economy الاستثمارات- investment	النسائية- womanhood الحملة- campaign الخيرية- Charity الشهادة- recognition الفحص- check المنشورية- representation الاجتماعية- Society	العمل-work المجلس- council القانون- law الزواج- marriage المأمر-matter دور- role المجتمع- society الوظائف- tasks الإسلامية- Islamic مجال- field الأسرة- family مشاركة- participation المسؤولية- responsibility	العنف- violence الادمان- addiction الإرهاب- terrorism الاجرام- crimes المخدرات- drug الافيون- cannabis الإيدز- AIDS	المرض- sick القيض- arrest التحرش- harassme nt الجنسي- sexual الكحول- alcohol
Organisation	الحكومة-government الوطني-national				
Pronoun & Personal Name (ضمير)	Positive		Neutral	Negative	
	Male	Female		Male	Female
Pronoun	هو-He هؤلاء- they هم-them	هي- she هن- them (women)	أنا- I		
Personal Name	محمد- Muhammad إلياس- Elyas حسام- Husam سليمان- Suleyman سمير- Sameer عبد الله- Abdullah يونس- Yunous	ملالا- Malala فاطمة- Fatimah مريم- Maryam سارة- Saarah سنا- Sanaa	الله- Allah		
Adjective (صفة)	Positive		Neutral	Negative	
	Male	Female		Male	Female
Appearance	طيب-good مهم- important الحنيف- pure الرشيد- wise العليا- the highest المحسنين- good men جيد- good	متميزة- distinction واضحة- clear الشهيرة- famous المختارة- selected بسيطة- simple سهلة- easy قريبة- close		الصعب- difficult قديم- old	الزائفة- immitati on خطيرة- dangerou s

	سليم -no defect كامل-complete				
Behavioural	كريمة -generous	الأمانة -keeping promise			حياء -shy خجل -shy
Physical	كبير -big	الطويلة -Tall/high المحصنات -protected النشطة -active			
Emotion	صبر -patient الرحمن -blessed	المختصة -special كافية -enough عزيزة -highly respected الرحيمة -merciful			القلق -worry التوتر -anxiety

Moving into the second part of the analysis results, which deals with the verbs associated with men and women in the corpora data, the results are illustrated in Table 2 below.

Table 2: List of Verbs Associated with Agent; Describing Males, Females and Neutral.

MALES		
Sentence	Verb	Agent
وإذا طلب الرجل من زوجته هذه الشهادة ... أنه لا يثق فيها..	طلب requested لا يثق does not believe	الرجل man
تنافس شقيقها الرجل...	تنافس challenge	الرجل man
يترأس رئيس الحكومة عبد الإله ابن كيران ... اجتماع اللجنة الوزارية	يترأس conducting	رئيس leader
أشاد رئيس ديوان صاحب السمو الملكي رئيس الوزراء بما وصلت إليه العلاقات البحرينية الباكستانية من تقدم ونماء في جميع المجالات وبعض الأسر ترفض الموضوع لأنه يثير الشكوك.	أشاد highlights ترفض reject	رئيس leader -empty-
سيتم الاشتغال على ملتمس تشريعي في الموضوع نفسه.	سيتم to be complete	-empty-
أكد الوزير أن مشروع القانون المتعلق بالتأمينات الاجتماعية يهدف إلى تحسين منظومة الضمان الاجتماعي.	أكد emphasize يهدف aims	الوزير Minister -empty-
تنظيم عمل المرأة في محلات البيع في المراكز التجارية المغلقة قريباً.	تنظيم organising	-empty-
تعزيز فرص المرأة الموظفة لمناصب المسؤولية والقرار.	تعزيز enhancing	-empty-
يطالب المنتدى بالتنصيص على وجوب حماية المرأة الموظفة من التحرش الجنسي.	يطالب requesting	-empty-
طالب منتدى الزهراء للمرأة المغربية باستثناء المرأة من إجراء الرفع من سن	طالب requested	-empty-
دعا المنتدى خلال ندوة صحفية نظمها صباح الثلاثاء 4 نونبر 2014 لتقديم مذكرته الاقتراحية حول المرأة الموظفة.	دعا urge	-empty-
قدم المنتدى تعديلات تعم قانون المعاشات المدنية يهدف إلى إنصاف المرأة الموظفة.	قدم present يهدف aims	-empty-
حصل فيلم "فتاة المصنع"، الذي يمثل مصر في التنافس على جائزة الأوسكار لأفضل فيلم أجنبي	حصل gained	-empty-
صادق نواب المجلس الشعبي الوطني يوم الخميس بالإجماع على مشروع القانون المتعلق بالتأمينات الاجتماعية في جلسة علنية ترأسها رئيس المجلس محمد العربي	صادق approved ترأس conduct	-empty- رئيس المجلس speaker

التطورات التي بدأ يأخذها العنف في شكل حوادث صادمة.	بدأ started	التطورات development
بين اللواء المجالي أن البرنامج الوقائي لإدارة مكافحة المخدرات يتضمن علاج المدمنين.	يتضمن consisting	-empty-
أكد اللواء هامل ... ان الجريمة المنظمة وخاصة الارهاب هو التحدي الذي سيواجهه قادة الشرطة في المستقبل .	سيواجه to be face	الإرهاب terrorist
من الممكن أن يحكم بالسجن 25 عاما على مرتكب العنف ضد المرأة.	يحكم punish	-empty-
وقد أكد لنا الشيخ بدوره أن هذا الطلب محرم شرعا.	أكد emphasize	الشيخ tribe leader
سأل الشيخ قسول عن عدم لطلب المرأة.	سأل asked	الشيخ tribe leader
نشر الشيخ سار هذا الفيديو.	نشر published	الشيخ tribe leader
استقبل الشيخ حسام بن عيسى آل خليفة بالوفود.	استقبل entertained	الشيخ tribe leader

FEMALES		
Sentence	Verb	Agent
فبدأت المملكة بوضع خطة لإشراك المرأة السعودية في الوظائف المختلفة.	بدأت started	-empty-
تسعى وزارة العمل السعودية والخدمة المدنية لتعزيز فرص الوظائف للنساء السعوديات.	تسعى trying	-empty-
تأسيس الشرطة النسائية الكويتية عام 2008.	تأسيس establish	الشرطة police
حلت كل من الداعية فاطمة النجار والوزيرتين بسيمة الحقاوي وحكيمة الحيطي ضمن قائمة 30 شخصية نسائية متميزة لسنة 2014.	حلت achieve	الداعية preacher
انطلقت الحملة في 25 نوفمبر المنصرم لتنتهي في العاشر من الشهر الحالي في الذكرى 68 للإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان.	انطلقت start	-empty-
لوقف أوضحت الحقاوي في كلمتها خلال إطلاقها الحملة الوطنية الثانية عشر العنف ضد النساء يوم الثلاثاء 25 نونبر نحن مصرون على إخراج قانون مناهضة العنف ضد النساء.	أوضحت explained إخراج drop	الحقاوي Al-Haqhawi -empty-
ملالا تتسلم جائزة نوبل الأربعة وتعرض ثوبها المضرج بدمائها أمام العالم.	تتسلم receiving	ملالا Malala
لا يمكنكم ان تطلبوا منهن الخروج وفلاحة الارض هذا يخالف طبيعة المرأة الضعيفة.	يخالف oppose	المرأة woman
فقامت وزارة العمل السعودية مؤخرا بتوسيع نطاق مجالات الوظائف للنساء.	قامت held	-empty-
وجوب حماية المرأة الموظفة من التحرش الجنسي الذي قد تتعرض له أثناء مزاولتها لعملها.	تتعرض expose	المرأة woman
”القبض على 1632 امرأة لشربهن” الكحول.	شرب drink	-empty-
يمنع النساء من قيادة السيارات في السعودية.	يمنع prohibiting	النساء women

NEUTRAL		
Sentence	Verb	Agent
تزايدت متطلبات الحياة وأعبائها وحاجة الاقتصاد إلى مشاركة الجنسين في التنمية، تعمل المملكة العربية السعودية على رفع نسبة مساهمة المرأة في العمل سواء في القطاع العام أو الخاص.	تزايد increasing تعمل working	-empty-
في نفس الوقت للملائمة مع المدونة التي دعت إلى المسؤولية المشتركة للوالدين.	دعت urge	-empty-

The discussion in this second part of the result analysis will look more in-depth on the language elements by focusing on the verbs associated with the agents that represent male, female, or both. There are many verbs related to men and women in various part of the texts. It can also be observed that these verbs represent actions in positive side and others reveal a negative side. Furthermore, the verbs come in various forms such as past tense, present and future tenses.

Male

According to the results shown in Table 2, the most frequent verbs associated with men are asked/requested, highlighted, elaborate, endorse/agree, conduct, argued, compete and greet. For example:

(1 وإذا طلب الرجل من زوجته هذه الشهادة... أنه لا يثق فيها...
(If the man (husband) asked his wife to confess...it means that he did not believe in her anymore.)

In this sentence, the verb represents man's superior power over the women as he can ask her to confess. It also represents man as the ruler that governs woman.

(2 تنافس شقيقها الرجل.
(The woman is struggling to compete with her brothers.)

The second sentence taken from the news article related to the previous example shows that woman must struggle for her rights even with her own family or brothers. It shows that men are the most dominant in the family over the women.

Another example taken from the news articles shows the activities that are commonly related to men. These activities have been represented via verbs mostly related to government activities that portrayed men as leaders in making big decisions and taking care of the country or big community. For instance:

(3 يتأخر رئيس الحكومة عبد الإله ابن كيران ... اجتماع اللجنة الوزارية.
(The Prime Minister Abdoul Ilah Ibn Keran chairs his cabinet meeting.)

This sentence not only shows a man attending a meeting but, at the same time, holding the highest position in a particular meeting that make serious decisions regarding the nation. Another example that is closely related to this can be found in the following example:

(4 صادق نواب المجلس الشعبي الوطني يوم الخميس بالإجماع على مشروع القانون المتعلق بالتأمينات الاجتماعية
ترأسها رئيس المجلس محمد العربي .
(The parliament members on Thursday endorsed the proposal of new law related to social security in the meeting led by The Honorable Parliament Speaker Mohamad El-Arabi.)

Besides, men are also shown as the highest representative of the country one who greets delegates from other countries and works closely with the government to enhance international relationships. For example:

(5 أشاد رئيس ديوان صاحب السمو الملكي بما وصلت إليه العلاقات البحرينية الباكستانية من تقدم ونماء في جميع المجالات.
(The President of Royal Chamber highlighted the healthy relationships in various fields between Kingdom of Bahrain and Pakistan.)

(6 استقبل الشيخ حسام بن عيسى آل خليفة بالوفود.
(His Royal Highness Syaikh Husam El-Khalifah greets the delegates.)

Besides, men are also represented, holding a superior religious position such as The Grand Mufti or The Superior Judge in Islamic Judiciary. This allows him to produce verdict, advice

and guideline that has a considerable influence on others. He also has a superior voice over others that rejects his opinions by arguing and challenging their ideas. It is clearly stated in the news articles, for instance:

- (7) وقد أكد لنا الشيخ بدوره أن هذا الطلب محرم شرعا.
(The Syaikh emphasised that the favour (to women) is prohibited in Islamic law.)
(8) سأل الشيخ (The Syaikh argued back.)
(9) نشر الشيخ سار هذا الفيديو (Syaikh Sar published the video.)

On the other hand, some verbs are associated with men in a negative light. They are primarily related to crime, drug addiction and terrorism activities.

- (10) بين اللواء المجالي أن البرنامج الوقائي لإدارة مكافحة المخدرات يتضمن علاج المدمنين.
(Colonel El-Majali elaborated that the drug prevention program also included treatments to drug addicts in a particular place.)
(11) أكد اللواء ... ان الجريمة المنظمة وخاصة الارهاب هو التحدي الذي سيواجهه قادة الشرطة في المستقبل.
(The Colonel (also) stressed that organised crime, especially terrorism, is the biggest challenge faced by the police in the future.)
(12) من الممكن أن يحكم بالسجن 25 عاما على مرتكب العنف ضد المرأة.
(Those who commit violence against women will be sentenced to 25 years of prison.)

Thus, men are mostly presented in leadership roles in religious, political, and business contexts, where they make decisions about social laws and processes. However, they are also involved in harmful activities and social crimes.

Female

On the side of women, it can be observed that most of the verbs that work with nouns associated with women are less significant or have less impact compared to verbs that work with men. The impact is typically limited to themselves or their family. Moreover, women are shown mostly as objects of the verb rather than the subject (doer). Women activities are commonly being in passive voices rather than an active voice typically found in the men.

For instance, in these sentences taken from the news article, women are represented as the object of the verb controlled by others (mostly men).

- (13) وجوب حماية المرأة الموظفة من التحرش الجنسي الذي قد تتعرض له أثناء مزاولة عملها.
(It is compulsory to protect working women from sexual harassment when they went out for work.)

This sentence highlights the need for protection from sexual harassment of working women. Therefore, working women are in serious need of protection as they quickly become victims of harassment done by men. Social perceptions keep women in a position of vulnerability. The second example also shows that women are being protected from becoming victims in their workplace, such as doing tasks that are not suitable for their physical.

- (14) لا يمكنكم ان تطلبوا منهم الخروج وفلاحة الارض هذا يخالف طبيعة المرأة الضعيفة
(It is impossible to ask them (women) to go out and do hard works, which contrasts with their natural and physical weakness.)
(15) القبض على 1632 امرأة لشربهن "الكحول".
(1632 women have been arrested for drinking alcohol.)

In an example, 1632 women have been arrested by police for drinking alcohol. Thus, women have been arrested by police that typically is men.

(16 يمنع النساء من قيادة السيارات في السعودية.
(It is prohibited for women to drive in Saudi.)

This another example is taken from the news article also reported in the passive voice, that women are prohibited from driving in Saudi Arabia. The sentence does not mention who is prohibiting the women, but it can understand that the authorities usually associated with men are the one who prohibited it. However, some examples show women actively participating in some closely related activities to their personal and general affairs. These involved activities such as providing jobs opportunities to other women or participating in human right and women right movements. For example:

(17 تسعى وزارة العمل السعودية والخدمة المدنية لتعزيز فرص الوظائف للنساء السعوديات.
(The Ministry of Work and Civil Services is working to open more job opportunities for Saudi women.)

(18 انطلقت الحملة في 25 نوفمبر المنصرم لتنتهي في العاشر من الشهر الحالي في الذكرى 68 للإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان.
(The campaign starts on 25 November until 10th of this month (December) in remembrance of the 68th anniversary of International Human Right declaration.)

On another occasion, even though it rarely happens, women have received high recognition at the international level for their active participation in various fields. Among the well-known example is Malala, the strong girl that became a victim for fighting for the fundamental right that nearly killed her, had received the Nobel Prize and tells the world about her terrible experience. For instance, in this following sentence:

(19 ملالا تتسلم جائزة نوبل الأربعاء وتعرض ثوبها المضرع بدمائها أمام العالم.
(...on Wednesday, Malala received the Nobel prize and showed the world her clothing still full of blood...)

The second example shows three well-known Arab women received special recognition from the Arab region to inspire other Arab women to become successful people like themselves.

(20 حلت كل من الداعية فاطمة النجار والوزيرتين بسيمة الحقاوي وحكيمة الحيطي ضمن قائمة 30 شخصية نسائية متميزة لسنة 2014.

(The prominent preacher, Fatimah El-Najar and two women ministers Basimah El-Haqawy and Hakimah El-Heity achieved the recognition to become among 30 the most excellent women in 2014.)

Unlike men, women are commonly portrayed in issues related to family matters and women affairs. Their involvement in prominent and crucial activities is limited. However, they do gain little achievement and achieve some recognition at the world higher level.

Neutral

In the neutral section that involved both gender men and women, the news articles also tend to report in passive voices rather than active. It is most common to be presented as a call for both man and woman to carry out an activity or task together. Furthermore, this call also comes with the explanation of the reasons or benefits that can be achieved by both man and woman in doing that task together. In other words, the verbs that are typically attached with both genders are somewhat likely to happen or hopefully will happen rather than being highlighted as already happened or as happening. For example:

- تزايد متطلبات الحياة وأعبائها وحاجة الاقتصاد إلى مشاركة الجنسين في التنمية. (21)
(The sharp increase in daily need and living cost bring in the increase of both man and woman participation in economic activities.)
دعت إلى المسؤولية المشتركة للوالدين. (22)
(Called for shared responsibility between parents.)

In sum, the sentences show how activities that involve both genders usually are related to both man and woman interest and directly affect their lives are being portrayed in news articles. These verbs need cooperation from both of them as they share the same responsibility toward their family. It needs both man and woman working together to achieve the goal for their interest.

5. Conclusion

Arab women (AW) have long suffered from the unjust treatments and policies against them. However, over the past two decades, women's position in Arab societies has shown a significant improvement. However, not all AW have enjoyed the great privilege of being treated almost equal to their men, and some AW is still marginalised in their societies. This is why AW often becomes the 'victim' of bad stereotype in the media. Moreover, mass media, including the Arab media itself, do not play their full potential in media influence to tackle this issue that haunted AW for decades.

The analysis of keywords in the representations of women in modern standard Arabic online news coverage in 2014/2015 revealed that women are still represented differently compared to men in term of their adjective, pronoun, noun and verb associated with women. For instance, the verbs that indicate more active and serious involvement are most dominant to men than women. On the other hand, women are working with the verbs related to their core works, and mainly house works as a daughter, sister and wife by doing tasks for their male counterparts. This again indicates the gender segregation between men and women in the media discourse. From a different perspective, the differences between men and women, particularly in terms of adjectives and pronouns, show the distinctive features between both genders. Hence, show that men and women have their own unique identities that separated each other and complement each other, which reflected the natural relationship between men and women.

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