The Representation of Islamophobia: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Yahoo News

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Abstract: This descriptive study attempted to explore the representation of Islamophobia over the Internet with a rather precise look atthe news via the commonly-viewed Yahoo site. To this end, four news reports from 25 countries in the Middle East and Asia were randomly selected between June 15 2013 and August 15 2013 in this site. After analyzing the reports at the word, sentence, paragraph, and graphic levels, the moves implied were identified. Also, applying Fairclough model of critical discourse analysis, the news reports were analyzed at micro and macro levels. For the former, the lexical choice, genre choice, and picture choice and for the latter, access, power and ideology issues were investigated.Furthermore, four major themes of violence, aggression, terrorism, and extremism, and five minor themes of monolithic, discrimination, backwardness, barbarism, and lawlessness were identified. The findings indicated that the above-mentioned site (out of six commonly-viewed sites), unintentionally or on purpose, impose the colonial ideology of the west to the world media and introduced Islam as a religion of violence, aggression, extremism, terrorism, monolithic, backwardness, and barbarism via the copious use of negative-carrying-burden lexicon, texts, graphics, and videos. In this regard, it is suggested that the world of Islam be conscious of these false propaganda against Islam and take appropriate and timely measures so that they could introduce the true nature of this holy religion to the world and reduce the number of Islamophobic attackson the Muslim community throughout the world.

Keywords: Islamophobia, violence, aggression, terrorism, extremism, discrimination, move, genre

1. INTRODUCTION

During the last decade, different studies have been conducted regarding Islamophobia, its causes, consequences, and representations. Media is a significant domain in discourse in which Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) has been used. Several studies have been conducted regarding media discourse like the study carried out by Van Dijk (1991) on the roles that news reports playin ethnic relations. In this regard, these studies mostly have focused on different newspapers or journals headlines and news reports as the data for their analysis. However, with the enormous advances in the area of information technology and the internet facilities, the public get their favorite news through different sites on the Net. Some of the most frequently-referred-to sites by the people around the world are Facebook, YouTube, Yahoo, Google, and MicrosoftNetwork (MSN)through which people get the latest news, search their favorites, get to know each other, chat with one another, share information and ideas, and the like. Yet, to the best of our knowledge, few studies, if any, have taken into account the internet sites as the main source of data collection regarding Islamophobia. As such,in this paper, the authors made an effort to analyze the kind of discourse utilized on the internet site of Yahoo considering Islamophbia at the micro and macro levels of Fairclough's three-dimensional analytic framework.

1.1. Islamophobia Definition

Originally, the term "Islamophobia"was coined as a notion by political activists in the late 1990s, the purpose of which was to focus on rhetorical functions, actions, and manners towards Islam and the Muslim

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community in the West. The word consists of two parts: "Islam" (the religion of Muslims) and "phobia" which is defined by the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2005) as "a strong unreasonable fear or hatred of a particular thing".The term has been defined by researchers differently: Lee *et al.* (2009: 93) give the following definition for this term: "fear of Muslims and the Islamic faith." Likewise, Abbas (2004: 28)defines it as "the fear or dread of Islam or Muslims." In one of the most carefully considered definitions, Stolz (2005: 548) states that "Islamophobia is a rejection of Islam, Muslim groups and Muslim individuals based on prejudice and stereotypes. It may have emotional, cognitive, evaluative as well as action-oriented elements (e.g. discrimination, violence)."

This concept became noticeable in discourse through the publication of the report "Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All" in 1997 by Runnymede Trust, which is a British race relations NGO. Specifically, the report provided a definition of Islamophobia as having eight constitutive components. "These were:

1. Islam is seen as a monolithic bloc, static and unresponsive to change.

2. Islam is seen as separate and "other". It does not have values in common with other cultures, is not affected by them and does not influence them.

3. Islam is seen as inferior to the West. It is seen as barbaric, irrational, primitive and sexist.

4. Islam is seen as violent, aggressive, threatening, supportive of terrorism, and engaged in a "clash of civilizations".

5. Islam is seen as a political ideology and used for political and military advantage.

6. Criticisms made of the West by Islam are rejected out of hand.

7. Hostility toward Islam is used to justify discriminatory practices towards Muslims andexclusion of Muslims from mainstream society.

8. Anti-Muslim hostility is seen as natural or normal."

Having defined the term "Islamophobia" quoting different researchers, now, we will have a look at its manifestation in the media.

1.2. Islamophobia and the media

Although Islamophobia is the product of political and power discourse and academic and contemplation discourse, it has entered the discoursal fields (such as institutions, structures and areas in which language has a role) to hegemonize its subjects. One of these fields is the media. Islamophobia and its stereotypes in the public mind require versatile means like media. So, the media forms the main means in distributing the discoursal features of Islamophobia (Ekvani, 2012).

Islamophobic mindsets are controlled by the media because the media is such an easily accessible resource. In Great Britain, 74% of people agree that they do not know much about Islam and 64% of their knowledge is learnt from the media (Ansar, 2013). The big problem with media which has the role of control is that over 90% of what is stated about Islam and its followers is inaccurate and highly negative (Ahmed, 2012).

Some studies reveal that the western media have presented a harsh, unclear, and monolithic representation along with an unreal, horrible, and backward image of Islam in their Islamophobic attempts (Derakhsheh and Hosseini Faegh, 2009; Ekvani 2010; & Hasan Khani, 2011). Also, Hasan Khani (ibid) believes that Islamophobia in the West and specially The Times aims at introducing Islamlike a faith which is:

– anaggressive religion which supportsviolence

– a religion against the human rights which has unhuman rules

–   a religion of terror and supporting terrorism

–   a religion against freedom

–   a religion of violence and aggression against women and their rights

–   a religion of violence and disturbing order and peace in the west

–   a real threat and rival to Christianity

–   a religion against science, development, and technology

–   a serious threat for the future of human civilization in one word

Soleimani (2013) in an article entitled "Orientalism, Islamophobia, Iranophobia in the Media" states that Islamophobia followed by Iranophobia is the mainstream in the new orientalism.

Said (2003) states that the media is one of the widespread and comprehensive sources of reproducing and dissemination of orientalism discourse and creating negative stereotypes about Muslims. Fiske (1987) maintains that the media functions as an ideological means capable of introducing the elite's interaction and marginalizing others.

Moreover, the media reject the representation of the subordinates (Mora, 2009). Since the famous media in the West possesses the highest power in representation, terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism are the iconographic stereotypes most often used by the western media (Mahdizade, 2012).

The western media has tried to present a false portrayal of Islam and Muslims to the West indicating that Islam attempts to rule the world, that Islamic laws do not correspond with the Human Rights, that Islam is a religion of aggression, is nervous and reproducing terrorism, that Islam considers war, jihad, and bloodshed as sacred, that Muslims are pessimistic, separatist, isolated, and indifferent to change (Razavi, 2009). In a study, entitled The Islamophobia Wave, Shafiee Sarvestani (2010) claims that regarding Islamophobia, the film industry (cinema), the Internet, and the Press, as the most important means of soft war, play the most significant role.

1.3. Critical Discourse Analysis

Van Dijk (1998a) provides the following definition for critical discourse analysis (CDA): It is a field whose aim is to study and analyze written and spoken texts through which the discursive sources of power, dominance, inequality and bias are shown. The field investigates the way in which the above-mentioned discursive sources are kept and produced again in specific social, political and historical contexts. Similarly, according to Fairclough (1993) CDA is a kind ofanalysis in discourse the aim of which is to explore the opaque relationships of causality and determination systematically. These relationships may be between (1) "discursive practices, events and texts, and (2) wider social and cultural structures, relations andprocesses" (p. 135).

In our study of Islamophobia and as the approach to the media discourse analysis, we would make use of Fairclough's three-dimensional analytical framework. Also, our focus would be on micro-level issues like interaction, interpretation and reproduction via analyzing lexical, genre, and picture choices.

Fairclough (ibid) believes that the CDA encompasses three analysis processes which are inter-related andintertwined with three dimensions of discourse which are inter-related.These discourse dimensions are: text (description: the formal characteristics of a text), discursive practice (interpretation: the relation between a text and interaction), and sociocultural practice (explanation: "social determination of the processes of production and interpretation and their social effects"). (see figure 1 below).
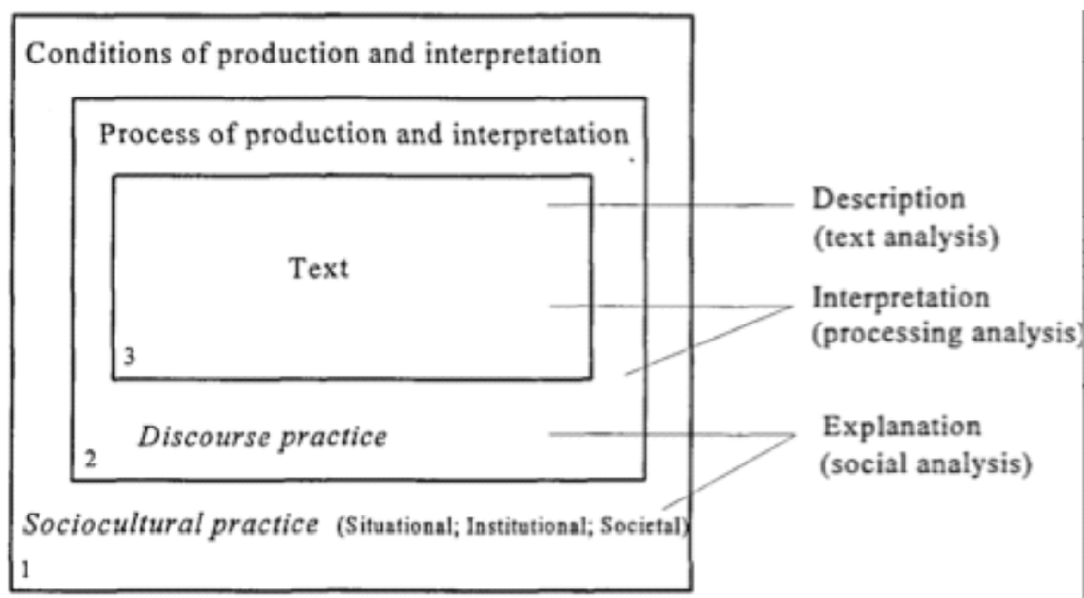
Figure 1: Fairclough's dimension of discourse and discourse analysis

(Adapted from Hilary, 2002, p. 330)

According to Fairclough, the first level of the framework is textual-analysis which includes "the study of the different processes, or types of verbs, involved in the interaction; study on the meanings of the social relations established between participants in the interaction; analysis of the mood (whether a sentence is a statement, question, or declaration) and modality (the degree of assertiveness in the exchange)." (Rogers *et al.,* 2005, p. 371).

The second dimension which Fairclough introduces is the processing analysis involving "analysis of the process of production, interpretation, distribution, and consumption. This dimension is concerned with how people interpret and reproduce or transform texts" (ibid).

Fairclough's third dimension –social analysis "concerned with issues of power—power being a construct that is realized through interdiscursivity and hegemony. Analysis of this dimension includes exploration of the ways in which discourses operate in various domains of society" (ibid).

In short, as Fairclough maintains "the analysis of the text involves the study of the language structures produced in a discursive event. An analysis of the discursive practice involves examining the production, consumption, and reproduction of the texts. The analysis of sociocultural practice includes an exploration of what is happening in a particular sociocultural framework" (ibid).

2. METHOD

2.1. Data Base

To investigate the Islamophobia on the Web, the commonly-viewed site of Yahoo was picked out due to its wide readership and great number of audience. This site includes different sections titlede-mail, image, video, search, news, Yahoo sites, favorites, galleries, slideshows, etc., of which the news section was investigated in this study. The news included 25 Middle East and Asian countries from June 15 2013 to August 15 2013 and covered both domestic and international issues. The countries under study were: (in alphabetical order) Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. So, there were a total of 84 news reports (taken randomly from a pool of 567 reports) which

ranged from 69words (from Lebanon) to 2073 words (from Bahrain) in length.The reports mostly consisted of eight moves, namely, the headline, the news agency, the writer and the correspondent, the date, the news text, usually one photo, other related contents, and a comment section. The news reports were released by different agencies (see table 1and graph 2for the number of reports released by each news agency in Yahoo site).

Table 1
The news agencies from which the Yahoo site got its news reports

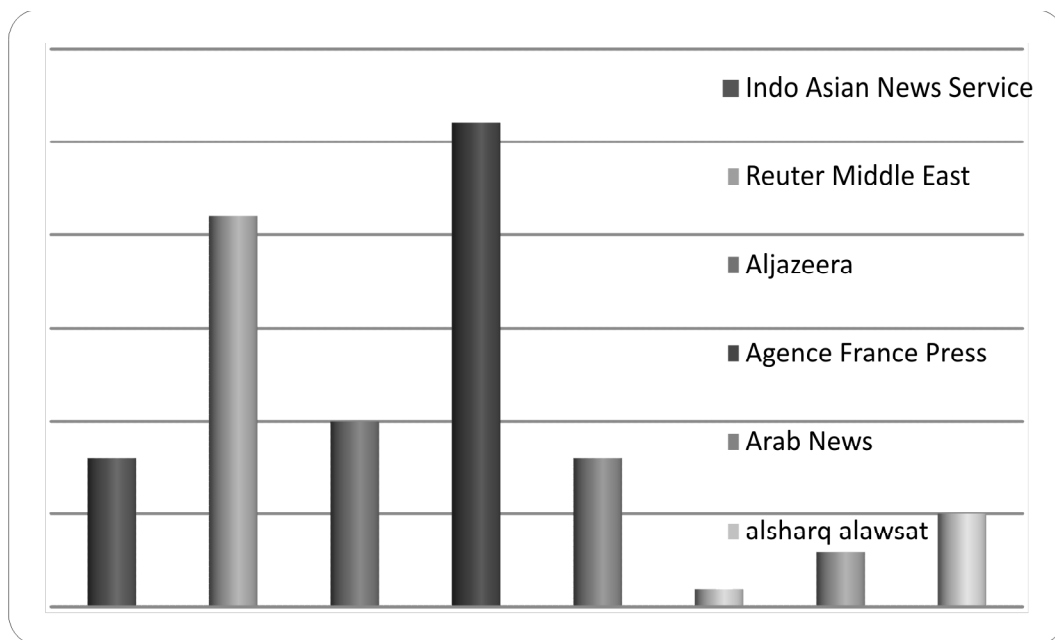| *News Agency*								*Total*
News Agency	*Indo Asian News Service (IANS)*	*Reuters Middle East*	*Aljazeera*	*Agence France-Presse AFP*	*Arab News*	*alsharq alawsat*	*7DAYS*	*World Middle East Turmoil*	*8*
No of Reports	8	21	10	26	8	1	3	5	84

Figure 2: The frequency of Islamophobic news reports released by each news agency

2.2. Procedure

To collect data, first, four news reports regardingthe above-mentioned countries were randomly selected from a total of 26 news items for each country. Next, the related moves and themes were explored and presented through some examples. In so doing, the reports were investigated at micro and macro levels of Fairclough's model regarding critical discourse analysis. For the former, the lexical choice, genre choice, and picture choice and for the latter, access, power and ideology issues were looked into. Then, the lexicon indicating implicitly or explicitly the different aspects of Islamophobia were presented. And finally, the data were analyzed employing descriptive statistics using Microsoft Office Excel 2007.

3.   RESULTS

The obtained results will be presented through the following concepts: the moves, the themes, the lexemes indicating Islamophobia, and stance features each of which includes some subsections.

3.1. The moves

In genre analysis, a move is considered as a "discoursal or rhetorical unit thatperforms a coherent communicative function in a written or spoken discourse" (Swales, 2004, p. 228 9). So, a move may be regarded as part in a text, whether written or spoken, this move obtains a specific aim within the respective text.

Having investigated some news reports, we came up with severalmost prevalent moves. The moves consisted of the Title, the name of the Correspondent and the Writer, usually one Photo, the news Text, sometimes a Video, the related Content, and finally a Comment Section (See Appendix I for one example). In our analysis, only three moves, namely the title (headlines), the photo, and the news content will be examined.

3.1.1. The choice of title for creating the context

The title usually aims at attracting the reader attention and could be of various moods like a statement, a question, or a declaration. The most prevalent mood found in the titles was that of a statement and sometimes that of a declaration. Some points in case are the following examples: (see Appendix II for the complete list of the 84 titles)

Tunisian armed forces launch attacks on militants (from News report No 2)

149 dead in Egypt clashes: health ministry (from News report No 12)

Eight killed in Iraq suicide bombing (fromNews report No 18)

Hezbollah man alleges plot to kill Saudi envoy to Nigeria (from News report No 32)

Three Chinese found murdered in Afghan capital (from News report No 80)

Regarding the text analysis of the titles, the types of verbs and nouns were investigated. Some of these words (regarding the 84 titles) with their frequencies indicated in parenthesis are as follows.The words with a frequency of below 2 appear under the title of other words.

Attack/attacks/attacked(N=8), Bomb/bomber(N=5), Fight/fights(N=5), Hurt/hurting(N=6), Kill/kills/killed/killing (N=15),Militant(s)(N=3), Police/policeman(N=4), Protest/protests(N=4), Taliban(N=5) and Torture/tortured (N=7)

Other related words: escape/charge/capture/recapture/arrest/detain/detainee/troops/armed/prisoner/bomb/firebomb/injure(d)/injuries/riot/rage/suicide/dead/crime/wound(ed)/violence/jailed/dissident/condomn/massacre/free/release/flee/rebel/weapon/strike/murder/soldier/gunmen/AlQaeda/gambling/opposition/Islamist/Jihadist/crisis/bar(s)/clashes/recession/rapist/blast/slain/plot/sectarianism/nuclear/abusive/assassinate

3.1.2. The choice of photo for attracting the audience's attention

Photos are often more eye-catching than the titles as they put the immediate impact on the audience. As such, the news reporters/correspondents make efforts to include, at least, one photo per bit of news a fact which is true of the news reports investigated here. Specifically speaking, in one photo a burnt car or building is shown, other photos reveal a man or some protestors among the debris and rubbles after explosions and clashes (photo A below), still some photos show many dead or injured bodies laid out on the floor(Photo B below). Further, in some other pictures some militants are shown.

3.1.3. The choice of news content via different genres and sentences for interacting with the audience

The term "genre", which is originated from a Latin word, namely, "genus", dates back to the periods of ancient Greek and Romans. Swales (1990) believes that the term genre is a distinguishable and

communicative event which is manifested through a set of communicative purposes which in turn are recognized and comprehended mutually by the members of the professional or academic community where it usually happens.

By analyzing the news texts, we came up with two kinds of genres, namely, declaration and persuasion. Through the declaration genre, the news reporter attempts to declare something of importance which is mostly factual and of what can be seen as the de facto to the reader. In fact, the reports try to reveal the reality and what has happened in a particular scene. Examples can be identified in nearly most of the news reports.As for the persuasion genre, in addition to the reporter's presenting the de facto nature of the news, he or she makes an effort to persuade the reader that what happened is of great importance and value.

3.2. The themes

According to Wenden (2003), themes are usually based on the pieces of information chosen from an extensive domain of rhetorical options, for instance, problems/solutions, causes/consequences, comparisons/contrasts, description or argumentation or a combination of several of them. In fact, themes convey a writer or speaker's representations or manifestations of the conditions, events,practices, individuals, and groups that areto be focusedverbally or non-verbally, i. e., in a text or talk.Accordingly, the writers' preferences show what they find relevant to a perception of the given topic. Thus, the choices may be of crucial importance in their ideological biases.

Having investigated the news reports, we identified the themes of violence, aggression, terrorism, and extremism as major, and those of monolithic, discrimination, backwardness, barbarism, and lawlessness as minor. To be thrifty, a few examples of the excerpts indicating these themes appear in figures 3 through 8 below:(It should be mentioned that there may some commonalities between the excerpts from one theme to another one, i. e., a kind of concept overlap among the excerpts as it was rather difficult to distinguish between them)

3.3. The lexemes indicating Islamophobia

Here, the lexemes (nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs) indicating some aspects of Islamophobia implicitly or explicitlywere searched, counted, and classified, through a Microsoft word document, considering the following topics (the count included all the 84 news reports):

-the titles given to Muslims

-the adjectives describing Muslims

-the verbs/nouns used to describe Muslims

-the idioms and phrasal verbs explaining Muslims' actions and behavior

These concepts are presented in what follows.

- "Earlier this week, militants killed eight soldiers in the remote Mount Chaambi region,…."

(http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/08/02/idUKBRE9710K320130802)

- "149 people were killed in clashes across Egypt." (http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/162558760.html).

- "Eleven people were killed and 15 others got wounded when a roadside bomb exploded …"
(http://in.news.yahoo.com/190804467.html)
- "…monthly death toll sometimes exceeded 3,000" (http://in.news.yahoo.com/190804467.html).
- "… over 1,000 Iraqis were killed and more than 2,300 wounded in acts of terrorism and violence in July, the

deadliest month in more than five years." (http://in.news.yahoo.com/190804467.html).

- "Over 60 people alone were killed during celebrations for Eid al-Fitr, …"

(http://in.news.yahoo.com/181005654.html)

- "A suicide bomber detonated explosives in a cafe north of Baghdad on Monday, killing eight people
and wounding 24,…" (http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/163919644.html)
- "Four Israeli soldiers were wounded on Wednesday in an explosion along the border with Lebanon."
(http://news.yahoo.com/074657192.html).
- "The death of prominent Muslim Brotherhood critic Abdelsalam al-Mosmary, shot after leaving a
Benghazi mosque on Friday, has triggered violent demonstrations, … "
(http://news.yahoo.com/175318046.html)…

Figure 3: Muslims as Violent

- "Militants killed eight Tunisian soldiers on Monday in an ambush in the area, shooting them and slitting

their throats …"(http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/08/02/idUKBRE9710K320130802)

- "One water cannon vehicle caught fire when protesters threw petrol bombs and

stones."(http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/12/idUSBRE97B08W20130812).

- "… youths have targeted police patrols, and there have been attacks on a Bahraini lawmaker's house as
well as on a mosque in a district where many members of Bahrain's royal family live
…"(http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/12/idUSBRE97B08W20130812).
- "told AFP the girl had been shot twice, once in the chest and once in the back "
(http://uk.news.yahoo.com/144735132.html?.tsrc=yahoo#cKZsa31).
- "… hundreds of al Qaeda fighters in   armored trucks attacked the northern Iraqi tow   n of Shirqat
withmachine guns …"(http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/133821731.html)
- "Fighters now control most of the villages and towns in an area known as the Hamrin Mountains."

(http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/133821731.html)

- "A Kurdish group in Syria seized the town of Ras al-Ain near the Turkish border last month after days
of battle with Syrian al Qaeda fighters" (http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/133821731.html).

- "… criminal charges for the attack in Benghazi, Libya, last year in which U.S. Ambassador to Libya
Christopher Stevens and three other Americans were killed" (http://news.yahoo.com/205608899.html).

- "The three men on trial are accused of plotting attacks against Israeli and Western targets in Nigeria as
well as having links to Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah" (http://en-
maktoob.news.yahoo.com/002900689.html).

Figure 4: Muslims as Aggressive

- "al-Ajmi wrote that that "all supporters of the Syrian fighters are welcome to my home."

  (http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/08/2013813124256264315.html)

- "A U.N. official told Reuters that there were suspicions that boys of 15 or 16 were often taken back to fight, chaperoned by an uncle, elder brother or other relative" (http://news.yahoo.com/182715741.html).

- "Syria was likely to see a repeat of the so-called "Birds of Paradise", children trained by al Qaeda tocarry out suicide bombings in Iraq, the official said" (http://news.yahoo.com/182715741.html).

- "A Lebanese suspect with alleged links to Hezbollah and on trial in Nigeria for terrorism offenses told a court on Friday he was aware of a plot to assassinate Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Abuja" (http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/002900689.html).

Figure 5: Muslims as Extremist

- "The shop owners say local women refuse to work shifts and at specific hours" (http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/002100160.html).

- "Kuwait bans political parties and opposition politicians said the four-vote system enabled them to form alliances by offering reciprocal backing from their supporters" (http://news.yahoo.com/230240862.html).

- "But the 84-year-old emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, has the final say in state matters and can dissolve parliament" (http://news.yahoo.com/230240862.html).

- "Hajeri, who was convicted of publicly undermining the authorities of the emir and for misusing his mobile phone, will now serve 20 months in prison" (http://uk.news.yahoo.com/141559082.html).

Figure 6: Muslims as Monolithic

- "Shops would only be allowed to reopen once they have hired Saudi women, he said" (http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/002100160.html).

- "Government officials in Kuwait have pulled a prominent cleric off television over previous commentsthey say stoked sectarian tensions and promoted an al-Qaeda-linked rebel group in Syria" (http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/08/2013813124256264315.html).

- "Al-Ajmi regularly writes anti-Shia comments online, suggesting that the Shia faith should be banned in Muslim countries" (http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/08/2013813124256264315.html).

- "… he celebrated the beheading of a leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah group and his son"

  (http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/08/2013813124256264315.html).

- "They include eight women, the lowest number of female candidates since women won political rights in 2005" (http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/021715236.html).

- "Kuwait has a population of 3.9 million, but just 31 percent are citizens and of that 1.23 million just 440,000 are eligible to vote" (http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/021715236.html).

- "The voting age is 21 and Kuwaitis serving in the police or army are barred from taking part" (http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/021715236.html).

- "But the 84-year-old emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, has the final say in state matters and can dissolve parliament" (http://news.yahoo.com/230240862.html).

Figure 7: Muslims as Discriminatory

- "An Indian woman is among three domestic maids who managed to escape after being allegedly abused by

their employers in Bahrain during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan"

(http://www.arabnews.com/news/461282).

- "Hussam says that because of the high demand, some greedy shop owners try to con customers, especially those who appear wealthy" (http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/002100160.html).

- "The first results were not expected until after midnight (2100 GMT) as ballot papers are still counted manually in Kuwait" (http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/021715236.html).

- "… dozens of people have been charged with remarks deemed offensive to the emir, which is a crime in

Kuwait" (http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/08/2013813124256264315.html).

- "He selects a prime minister who in turn appoints a cabinet, while top portfolios are traditionally held by

members of the 250-year-old ruling family" (http://news.yahoo.com/230240862.html).

- "Kuwaiti courts have given various jail terms against a number of opposition tweeters for allegedly insulting the emir. Many more are on trial on similar charges"(http://uk.news.yahoo.com/141559082.html).

Figure 8: Muslims as Backward

- "He is also accused of kidnapping two Western diplomats working on a United Nations mission in Niger in late 2008,…"(http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/07/201372001825479521.html)
- "He says he was beaten repeatedly as threats were made to rape his mother and sisters until he confessed, falsely he says, to attending a memorial for a dead protester and throwing a stone at a burning police vehicle" (http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/12/idUSBRE97B08W20130812).
- "authorities had used widespread and excessive force, including torture to extract confessions"

  (http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/12/idUSBRE97B08W20130812).

- "… a wave of car bombs in recent days that killed scores of people including children during a religious

holiday…"(http://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/133821731.html)

- "… he celebrated the beheading of a leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah group and his son"

  (http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/08/2013813124256264315.html).

Figure 9: Muslims as Barbarous

- "Organized crime networks are operating in the biggest refugee camp, Za'atari in Jordan, which is home to 130,000, it said. The camp is "lawless is many ways", with resources that are "constantly stolen or vandalized" (http://news.yahoo.com/182715741.html).
- "Given the harsh physical conditions to be found in Za'atri, coupled with the high level of criminality in the camp, it is not surprising to hear refugees speaking of their desire to 'escape.'"

(http://news.yahoo.com/182715741.html)

- "Refugees can live outside the camp if they are "sponsored" by a Jordanian citizen, but many refugees are paying up to $500 to middlemen to get out, the report said" (http://news.yahoo.com/182715741.html).

Figure 10: Muslims as Lawless

3.3.1. The titles given to Muslims (with their frequency of occurrence)

Activist (13), Al-Qaeda (12), Bomber (10), Demonstrator (4), Detainee (5), Extremist (3), Fighter (27), Gunmen (9), Hezbollah (9), Hostage (4), Islamist (56), Jihadist (9), Kidnapper (1), Killer (2), Militant (34), Prisoner (37), Protester (15), Rebel (21), Salafist (6), Shiite/Shi'ite (27), Soldier (26), Suicide Bomber (8), Sunni (16), Suspect (7), Taliban (38), Terrorist (10), Violator (5) and Victim (17)
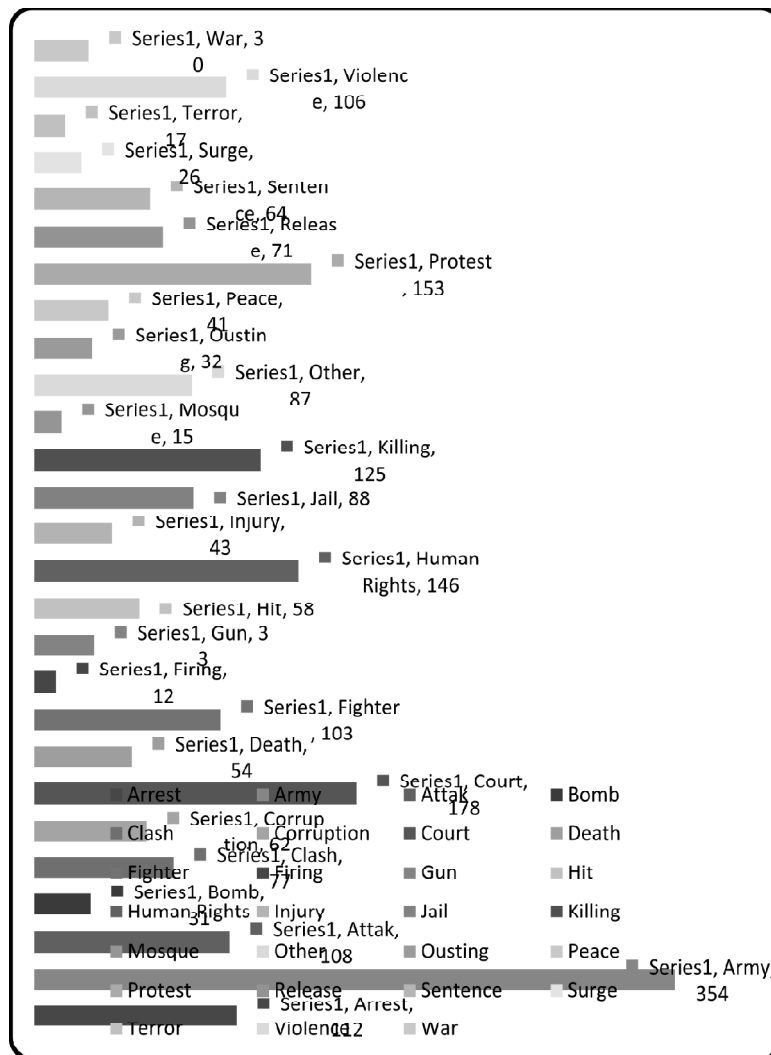
3.3.2. The adjectives describing Muslims (with their frequency of occurrence)

Afraid (2), Against (51), Angry (5), Anti (11), Armed (19), Islamic (15), Radical (4), Shot (23), and Violent (12)

As can be seen from above titles and adjectives with their frequencies, Muslims are regarded as aggressive and violent through some words like *Islamist, against, fighter, Taliban, prisoner, militant, Shiite, shot, and soldier* with frequencies of 56, 51, 27, 38, 37, 34, 27, 23, and 26, respectively.

3.3.3. The words (verbs and nouns) describing Muslims and their behavior

The lexemes and their equivalents or other words indicating similar denotations which show Muslims' actions and behavior were and categorized into 27 classes a description of which along with their frequencies are displayed through the following graph (arranged alphabetically):

Graph 2: The classification of the words (verbs and nouns) describing Muslims and their behavior

As the above graph depicts, the top ten categories with the highest frequencies are: *army, court, protest, human rights, killing, arrest, attack, violence, fighter, and jail*, in order. All the categories included some derivatives of the category, some other synonyms, or some other words related to that category in some respect. The following are the categories and what they included: (arranged alphabetically)

Army: including Army(22), Police/policeman/policemen(96), Force(103), Patrol(5),

Military(30), Security(25), Soldier(26), Troop(22), and operation(25)

Arrest: including Arrest/arrested(38), Detained/detention/detainee(18), Capture/recapture(11), and Cuff/handcuff/blindfold(4)

Attack: includingAttack/attacked/attacking(99), Ambush(3), Strike(8), Stab(2), and Storm(4)

Bomb: including Bomb/bombed/bombing(22) and Incident(9)

Clash: including Conflict(18), Tension(4), Clash(28), and Fighting/fight/fought(27)

Corruption: including Corrupt/corruption(8), Destroy/destroyed/destruction(7), Explode/explosive/explosion(22), Blast(6), Occur/occurrence(4), Happen/happening(6), Detonate/detonated/detonation(3), and Custody(6)

Court: including Court(39), Charge(27), Suspected(12), Crime(20), Crackdown(11), Allege/alleged/allegedly/allegation(38), Trial(11), Link(18), and Conspiracy/conspirator(2)

Death: including Died(11), Death(17), and Deadly(26)

Fighter: including Fighter(27), Militia/militiaman(4), Militant(34), Gunmen(9), Suicide Bomber(8), and Rebel(21)

Firing: including fire/firing(6) and Shooting(6)

Gun: including Gun(4), Weapon(20), Club(3), Tear Gas(4), and Grenade(2)

Hit: including Hit(13), Smash(4), Beat/beating(5), Throw/threw/thrown(8), Break/broke(17), and Hurt/hurting(11)

Human Rights: including Opposition(57), Sectarian/sectarianism(11), Human rights(21), Pressure(9), Camp(31), Refugee(13), and Discontent(4)

Injury: including Injured/injury(24) and Wound/wounded(19)

Jail: including Jail/jailed(25), Prisoner(s)/prison/imprison(46), Torture(7), and Fear(10)

Killing: including Kill/kills/killing/killed(116) and Assassin/assassinated/assassination(9)

Mosque: including Mosque(15)

Negotiate: including Negotiate/negotiator/negotiation(25), Talk/talks/talked(45), Investigate/investigated/investigating/investigator/investigation(27), Group(56), and Discuss/discussed/discussion(10)

Ousting: including Overthrow(8) and Oust/ousted(24)

Peace: including Peace/peaceful/peacemaking(41)

Protest: including Protest/protested/protester(67), March(8), Demonstrator/demonstrate/demonstration(21), Rally(5), Take/took/taken to(5), Restraint(9), Disperse(7), Lawless/lawlessness(3), Shout/shouted(4), Blood/bloodshed(10), Warn/warning/warned(10), Fire bomb(4), and Strike(8)

Release: including Release(24), Flee(7), Escape(12), and Freedom(28)

Sentence: including Sentence(22), Condemn(15), Convict/convicted/conviction(15), and Accuse/accused(12)

Settle: including Settle/settler/settlement(21)

Surge: including Insurgency/insurgent(6), Riot/rioting(6), and Crisis(14)

Terrorism: including Terrorist/terrorism/counter terrorism(17)

Violence: including Violence(59), Violate(d)/violation/violator(9), Uprising(12), Unrest(12), and Threat/threatened/threatening(23)

War: including War(22), Spark(4), and Battle(4)

*Others: including Islam(8), Kidnapping/kidnapped/kidnappers(5), Impose(8), Launch(14), Muslim(33), Target/targeted(17), and Instability(2)

❖ The items below two frequencies were not counted.

3.3.4. The idioms and phrasal verbsexplaining Muslims' actions and behavior (arranged alphabetically)

A wolf in sheep's clothing, Catch fire, Set ablaze, Set fire, Set free, Shot dead, Stormed the street/camp/base/police station, Take action, take part in, Take place, and Take to.

3.4. Stance Features

The term "stance" is defined as a writer's textual voice or a community's identified personality. It is a function of attitude and the writer's orientation which is related to the fact that how writers introduce themselves and reveal their judgments, ideas, and obligations. Stance covers some terms like hedges, boosters, attitude markers, and self-mention of which some examples of hedges and boosters will be put forward.

Hyland (1998) believes that hedges are devices which prevent thorough commitment to a proposition, letting the information be presented as a state of opinion rather than fact. They maintain that a claim is according to a reasoning which is plausiblerather than based on specific and definite knowledge. As such, the 84 news reports were investigated and the following hedges with their frequencies were identified. They are arranged below with their frequency given in parenthesis (arranged alphabetically):

Appear(13), Could(22), Impossible(3), Likely(8), May(15), Might(11), Possible(9), Seem(6), and Unlikely(1)

Unlike the hedges which are rather conservative, Hyland (2005a) claims that boosters are used by the writers to state their certainty of what they communicate so as to showthat they are involved with the topic and that enjoy some solidarity and unity with their audience. Furthermore, boosters emphasize shared information and group membership and limit chances for alternative voices. They often appear in clusters stressing the writers' conviction in their arguments. The following are a list of most-commonly viewed boosters in the news texts along with their frequency of occurrence given in parenthesis:

Certainly(1), Must(7), Should(18), Sure(3), and Nobody(2)

4.   DISCUSSION

4.1. The moves

As was mentioned in the result section above, from a total of eight moves, only the three moves of title, news content, and photo were examined. As Swales (1990) claims, a move is the basic unit which is used toanalyze the target text.Regarding the titles, usually, the news reporters try to create an interesting and intriguing context to attract the reader's attention in the most effective way for which they often include an attractive title.The titles of the news report investigated usually contained some words and/or their derivations which directly pointed out a false and Islamophobic nature of the news content. To put in another way, the words in the titles almost bear both a negative denotation and connotation the result of which is the creation/impression of some sort of irrational fear on the part of any reader from the countries from which the news comes, i.e., mostly Muslim countries.

As for the photos, the immediate influence that an image might have on the reader may sometimes stimulate their curiosity to want to continue reading the news text. However, most of the news reports

contained pictures most of which depicted a rather harsh, severe, violent, and aggressive image of both Muslims and Islam. Having a look at the news photos, the readers may come to the understanding that there is no security in Islamic countries and they cannot feel secure there (since the news belonged to the Islamic countries) as there are usually struggle and clash in the streets, people usually hold guns, clubs, and batons, there are explosions, gun firings, and suicide bombers who detonate themselves killing and injuring many innocent people, and there exist many other horrible and fearful scenes.

4.2. The Themes

Regarding the themes of violence, aggression, terrorism, and extremism, monolithic, discrimination, backwardness, barbarism, and lawlessness through which Muslims are represented, the findings are in line with some other studies (e. g., Whittaker, 2005:55). He believes that all the research conducted show negative and pessimistic view of the media towards Islam and Muslims and have constituted a stereotypic image of the Muslims which characterizes them as aggressive, violent, strange, and against women. The findings are also in accordance with those of Hasan Khani (2009) who claimed that The Time Magazine follows an Islamophobic policy through a wide coverage of news and attempts to present a false portrayal of Islam through such terms as radicalist, militarist, fundamentalist, aggressive, and Jihadist. Further, the findings are endorsed by another research conducted by Razavi (2009) who maintained that the media characterize Islam as aggressive, violent, and generative of terrorism thought.

4.3. The lexemes

Considering the verbs, nouns, adjective, and adverbsof which the reporters or correspondents make use to present the news, it can be inferred that they try to provide a rather harsh image of Islam, Muslims, and Muslim communities consciously or unconscoiusly. This study just addressed a small number of news reports from a large pool of data, as it is practically impossible to have an exhaustive sample of all the news reports butthe large number of negative-carrying burden words would suffice to portray a false image of Islam and, accordingly, presuppose for the hostility on the part of non-Muslim community.

4.4. The Stance Features

The stance features identified in the news reports were to function as the reporters' attitude and orientation towards a particular bit of news. They were manifested by means of applying hedges and boosters to the news texts. At some cases, the reporters have expressed their certainty and in others their uncertainty.

5.   CONCLUSION

In this article, we examined the representation of Islamophobia in the news reports in Yahoo sites by presenting the moves, genres, themes, and stance features which were implied or stated explicitly in them. Among the moves, the news titles, photos, and texts were investigated through which a negative representation of Islam can be identified. Also, by analyzing the news content, different themes of violence, aggression, terrorism, and extremism, monolithic, discrimination, backwardness, barbarism, and lawlessness proved prevalent. In addition, some stance features like hedges and boosters were identified.

In a nutshell, considering all the above moves and themes, the conclusion may be drawn that the news reports in Yahoo site reveals a false image of Muslims and Islam so that there can be an increase in the cases of Islamophobia towards Islam throughout the world, the manifestations of which are attacks on Muslims and the Mosques in the West. While Islam is a religion of peace, safety and friendship, its enemies, fearing from the hegemony of Islam in future, resort to anything to stop its growth and they find the media as their most effective means in this regard.

Therefore, the Islamic countries had better ally with one another to provide the world with a true nature of Islam via different media, i.e., defeat their enemies using their own means.

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Appendix I
An example of an original news report with the related moves

Suicide bomber kills eight at Iraq cafe: officials

AFP – *Mon, Aug 12, 2013*

- Email0
- Share0
-
- Print

View Photo

AFP/- - Iraqis gather at the scene of an explosion in Nasiriyah, south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad on August 10, 2013. A suicide bomber detonated explosives in a cafe north of Baghdad on Monday, killing eight …more people and wounding 24, officials said less

A suicide bomber detonated explosives in a cafe north of Baghdad on Monday, killing eight people and wounding 24, officials said.

Militants have carried out a number of attacks on cafes in recent weeks, especially during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, when many Iraqis went to cafes after breaking their daytime fast.

There are no comments yet

Leave a comment... Comment Guidelines

Appendix II
The titles (headlines) of the 84 news reports

1. Algeria issues arrest warrant against ex-minister
2. Tunisian armed forces launch attacks on militants
3. US charges al-Qaeda man over Algeria attack
4. Militants kill 8 Tunisian troops near Algeria border
5. SPECIAL REPORT-In Bahrain, a U.S. prisoner's dilemma

6. Firebomb attack injures policeman in Bahrain
7. Bahrain police recapture two escaped detainees
8. Indian maid escapes from abusive employer
9. Egypt security in 'total control' of main protest camp
10. Brotherhood says a leader's daughter killed in Cairo
11. Riots rage in Egypt's second city of Alexandria
12. 149 dead in Egypt clashes: health ministry
13. Iran parliament begins debate on Rowhani cabinet picks
14. Israel says Iran upping enrichment despite Rowhani election
15. U.S. says it awaits Iran's 'credible steps' on nuclear issue
16. Zimbabwe agrees to sell uranium to Iran: report
17. 17 killed in Iraq attacks
18. Eight killed in Iraq suicide bombing
19. Suicide bomber kills eight at Iraq cafe: officials
20. Iraq Kurds reach out to Baghdad to fight surging al Qaeda
21. Record number of Saudis enter Jordan during Eid
22. In Kerry's Mideast announcement, hints of success and challenge
23. New Egyptian PM seeks dialogue, end to divisions
24. Abaya prices surge on high demand during Ramadan
25. Kuwait pulls cleric from TV over sectarianism
26. Kuwait votes with turnout key as opposition boycotts
27. Tired of revolving door parliaments, Kuwaitis vote, again
28. Kuwait court acquits ex-MPs of insulting emir
29. Explosion wounds 4 Israeli soldiers near Lebanese border
30. Audit of Syria refugees finds organised crime and child soldiers
31. Slain and wounded Syrians brought to Lebanon
32. Hezbollah man alleges plot to kill Saudi envoy to Nigeria
33. Obama confirms sealed U.S. charges in Benghazi attack
34. Man killed in car bomb in Libya's Benghazi
35. Five wounded in bomb blast at Benghazi police station
36. Islamist party office attacked as Libya violence surges
37. Spain detains child rapist pardoned by Morocco
38. Furious Moroccans plan protest over Spanish paedophile
39. Spaniards seek future in Morocco as recession bites
40. Moroccans protest pedophile pardon
41. Kadhafis move to Oman in breach of sanctions: UN
42. Oman to shift to Friday-Saturday weekend
43. Libya Will Not Extradite Gaddafi's Son
44. Oman ruler pardons jailed dissidents
45. Hamas condemns 'terrible massacre' in Egypt
46. UN chief to tour Middle East this week
47. Israel names Palestinians to be freed before peace talks
48. UN rights chief tells Hamas to halt Gaza executions
49. Colorless Eid for Saudi students abroad
50. U.S. says still time for dialogue in Egypt, urges compromise
51. Qatar joins calls for release of Egypt's Morsi

52. Taliban reject Afghan elections, vow to fight until troops leave
53. Govt spurs efforts to employ Saudi women
54. 22,000 pilgrims leave Saudi Arabia each day
55. Black market for household workers remains lucrative after Ramadan
56. Doctor, nurse flee as shot kills patient
57. 100 killed in Sudan clashes
58. African Union to investigate Sudan, South Sudan quarrel
59. Saudi Arabia bars Sudan's Bashir from entering airspace
60. Murle women flee tribal violence in S Sudan
61. Fighting rages on across Syria
62. U.S. eyeing Syrian opposition alliances, chemical weapons moves
63. UN chemical weapons experts delay Syria mission
64. Jihadists push Syria rebels out of Raqa
65. Tunisia Islamist leader to meet union chief on crisis
66. Tunisian striker Saber Khlifa to sign with Marseilles
67. Tunis anti-government protest draws 40,000: police
68. Tunisian woman denies will head opposition's alternative cabinet
69. Yemen: Arabia's wildlife supermarket
70. Most US embassies to reopen after alert
71. Drone strike kills six militants in Yemen's Maareb
72. Seven al-Qaida members killed in Yemen
73. Dubai's 'Camp Idol' singing competition to begin
74. Restraint urged amid Egypt violence
75. British expat enters reality TV contest to win life on Mars
76. Duo arrested over gambling fight
77. Afghanistan's future depends on foreign soldiers: U.S. commander
78. High profile attacks on women in Afghanistan undermine rights campaign
79. Three U.S. soldiers killed in eastern Afghanistan
80. Three Chinese found murdered in Afghan capital
81. Taliban-style edict for women spreads alarm in Afghan district
82. Pakistani clerics ban women from shopping alone in northwest area
83. Taliban kill Pakistan officers probing massacre of foreign climbers
84. Gunmen in Pakistan kill nine in attack at mosque on Muslim holiday