

# THE PORTRAYAL OF ARAB MUSLIMS IN SELECTED WESTERN NEWSPAPERS AFTER THE ARAB SPRING DERIVED RESEARCH

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## ABSTRACT

*This study is a Critical Discourse Analysis of the portrayal of Arab Muslims in the western news discourse after the Arab Spring. Hence, extracts from eight articles of two selected western newspapers, namely the Independent from U.K and the Washington Post from U.S were selected and analysed ideologically and linguistically using van Dijk's notion of "ideological square", categorized by Us vs. Them dichotomies. Naming, lexical choices, presupposition and collocation are utilized for linguistic analysis. The study has concluded that the Arab Muslims have been portrayed positively after the Arab Spring as they are explicitly or implicitly seen as peaceful and innocent, civilized and courageous people. The conclusions have also proved that these two newspapers have revealed similar attitudes toward Arab Muslims. Applying Ideological Square has emphasized Arab Muslims' good properties and action, and deemphasizing their bad properties and actions and made the demarcation between the West and Arab Muslims absent.*

*Key words: Arab Spring, Critical Discourse Analysis, Ideology, Ideological Square, New Westerners' Themes*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

What quickly became known as the Arab Spring (henceforth AS) is a series of protest movements, reform movements, and revolutions took place in the majority-Muslim world of the Middle East and North Africa (Perrin, 2013:i). Beck and Hüser (2012:4) regard the AS as an event of global historical significance. It has been understood as a process of political change in the Middle East (ME). Protests in Tunisia and Egypt in 2011 forced the leadership to resign within weeks. The protestors demanded significant political reform and, in some cases, regime change (ibid:5). Manfreda (2014a:1) argues that these revolutions had an effect on political and social transformation in the region (Blight/Pulham/Torpey, 2013:1). In the same vein, Perrin (2013:i-vii) thinks that the AS was a reaction against different problems, like high unemployment, food-price increase, political corruption, and suppression of freedom of speech and other civil and political liberties. The Tunisian Revolution, also known as the Jasmine Revolution or the Sidi Bouzi Revolt, sparked by the self-immolation of Mohammed Bouazizi in a desperate plea for reform. This revolution resulted the resignation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali after twenty-three years of heavy-handed rule and had a great impact on other states in the ME. Oppressive regimes in Egypt, Libya, and Yemen were next to fall. On January 25 Egyptians taking to the streets to protest against Hosni Mubarak (ibid). Owing to these revolutions, an increasing focus on the Middle East, in general, and Arab Muslims (henceforth AMs) in particular in the western media can be noticed. Thus, it is essential to visit this issue and investigate how AMs are viewed in the West. The study aims to critically investigate the representation of AMs in western newspapers after

the Arab Spring. It also aims at proving the validity of CDA as a powerful approach that utilizes various linguistic tools to analyse a text on both the macro and micro levels. Besides, the research tries to provide a more examination of media representation of AMs through an analysis of articles from selected western newspapers. To achieve the aims above, the study hypothesizes that the AS has impacts on changing the Arab Muslims' images in the western newspapers and that all the western newspapers are similar in their representations of the AMs before and after the AS.

This study is important for it shows the increased attention the ME region is receiving from the media. This ideological and linguistic analysis carried in the present study will help understand the relevant and crucial issues associated with a particular discourse. Since this study aims at examining the discourse of media, it is necessary to design a framework that provides the basis for understanding the relation between language and its production. The framework that meets such demands is CDA. The following section will give a brief overview of the CDA.

## 2. CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

CDA is not a single discipline but it is considered as eclectic and diverse. In this sense, van Dijk (2001:96) has emphasized this diversity arguing that good CDA is the one that integrates the best work of many people, from different disciplines, countries, cultures and diversity of research. CDA does not have a firm framework and it is often considered as a general methodology, which is tied to social constructionism or social power and oppression. CDA methods mark differences based on their methods of analysis. Flowerdew (2008:199) maintains that CD analysts may have no specific procedure of rigorous analysis. However, each analyst working in CDA tries to present his/her own toolkits for doing CDA. The development in the area of CDA is due to the contributions of some scholars like Fairclough (1989, 1992, 1993, 1995a, 1995b, 1999), Wodak (1995, 1996, 1999) and van Dijk (1988, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1998b, 1998a). Critical Approach have stemmed from linguistics and those studies in sociolinguistics, which concentrated on "language in its social context" and on relationship between language and power Fairclough's (2001a:1). However, Fairclough (2001a:5) argues that these approaches have major weaknesses from a critical point of view because linguistics describes "language as a potential, a system, an abstract competence, rather than attempting to describe actual language practice". In Fairclough's (2001a) approach, discourse is viewed as "a form of social practice", which shows that it is a mode of action. Moreover, Fairclough (2001a) considers language as a part of society, which highlights that there is a dialectical relationship between language and society whereby language is a part of society. The second Figure in CDA is Wodak who bases her model of CDA on sociolinguistics in Berstenian tradition and on the ideas of the Frankfurt school, especially those of Jürgen Habermas (Wodak, 1995:209). According to Wodak (1996:3), Discourse Sociolinguistics is a sociolinguistics which not only is explicitly dedicated to the study of the text in context, but also accords both factors equal importance. Van Dijk is known for his Socio-Cognitive model which is based on the interconnection among cognition, discourse and society (van Dijk, 2000). This model is particularly useful for analysing the newspapers for stereotypes as well as biases on ethnicity. Van Dijk (1998:23) argues that his model can deal with the ideology-laden issues since a socio-cognitive approach "is able to explain how ideologies monitor practices of social actors in the society". Van Dijk (2002) takes ideology

as the attitude a group of people hold towards certain issues; hence, the analysis of ideology is one of the main concerns of discourse analysis.

### 3. IDEOLOGY

Language is to be considered as the most developed and effective medium human beings use to interact Chilton (2004). He states that human beings use language not only to communicate with each other, but also to represent the world the way they want. Fowler (1991) and Simpson (1993) say that Language is to be viewed as a communicative tool, which is saturated with ideological patterns, concepts and values. Simpson (2004:78) views ideology as “the matrix of beliefs to comprehend the world and to the value systems through and by which we interact in society”. Van Dijk (1998a) offers a multidisciplinary definition of ideology. He maintains that ideology is defined in relation to cognition, society and discourse. According to him, ideology is a set of ideas that are practiced by a group of people or a specific class, and communicated through language use. It is to be noted that all the previous definitions agree upon the notion of ideology as beliefs (ibid). Hence, ideology may be defined as the set of ideas or beliefs. Van Dijk (1998) is considered as the prominent figure in this respect. According to him, ideology is defined as “*social beliefs which are shared by members of society*” (van Dijk, 1998:8). He places ideology in a triangle, which relates cognition, society and discourse to each other, and results a theory called ‘multidisciplinary’. Therefore, to understand his notion of ‘ideology’, Van Dijk (1998, 2004, 2007) states that there are three levels of ideology: *cognitive*, *social* and *discoursal*. The cognitive level refers to ‘social representations’, namely socially shared beliefs, values, attitudes and opinions. According to van Dijk (2007:116), ideology is “*beliefsystems*”. The social representations are identified in religious beliefs, communism, feminism and racism. The ideology of cognitive and mental functions, on the other hand, are noticed in truth, falsity, ‘false consciousness’ and common sense. To Van Dijk (2007:118), ideology does not only stabilize society, but also regulates social practices, and legitimate, or conceal, relations of power and dominance. This function is primarily manifested in discourse. To Van Dijk (2007:116) *Ideologies are:*

*not any kind of socially shared beliefs, such as sociocultural knowledge or social attitudes, but more fundamental or axiomatic. They control and organize other socially shared beliefs...ideologies are foundational social beliefs of a rather general and abstract nature.*

The construction or change of ideologies can also be achieved by social practices, i.e. social actors and members of society actively participating in constructing or opposing certain ideologies. Following Van Dijk (1998), this study aims at investigating the linguistic choices and organization of lexical choices in elucidating underlying ideologies regarding the way AMs are presented in the selected articles.

To analyse the text ideologically, van Dijk (2000a:44) presents four principles that he calls “Ideological square” which is based on the following principles:

1. Emphasize positive things about **Us**
2. Emphasize negative things about **Them**
3. De-emphasize negative things about **Us**
4. De-emphasize positive things about **Them**

Ideological Square presents polarization of in-groups vs. out-groups to represent **Us** positively, but **Them** negatively (van Dijk's:ibid).

#### 4. LINGUISTIC FEATURES FOR CDA

The present study examines the linguistic features that the articles used for presenting a certain view of events, related to the AMs. Hence, to investigate the representation of AMs in the western ND before and after the AS, and according to the researcher, the features most relevant to the present study are as follows:

##### 4.1. Naming choices

The way that people are named in the texts can contain both ideological implication and power-relation reflections. Wardhaugh (1986:259) affirms that *naming choices* can indicate the ideological implication. In the same vein, Fowler, Kress and Trew (1979) believe that different ways of naming indicate different attitude, approach and intimacy relationships of the speaker or writer to the one/ones whom are spoken to or written about.

##### 4.2. Lexical Choices

Van Dijk (1995) points out that *lexicalization* is the major dimension of ideologically controlled discourse meaning (Johnson et al.,2010:248). For Richardson (2007:47) *lexical choices* refer to all types of words, but particularly nouns, adjective, verbs and adverbs that carry connotation and denotation meanings.. Moreover, a *lexical choice* is a distinguished aspect of ND, in which hidden opinions or ideologies may surface.

This study will survey the case of *lexical choices* to explore the taken approach of western newspapers regarding AMs.

##### 4.3. Presupposition

The study of *presuppositions*, particularly in ND is essential for understanding and interpreting meanings. *Presupposition* is employed in ND to serve ideological and/or political purposes (Bekalu,2006:151,169). Huang (2007:65) states that a *presupposition* is "a proposition which is assumed by the speaker to be known to the listener, on the basis of including all relevant information and shared knowledge". A *presupposition* is, thus, a proposition that is inferred by what is and what is not in a sentence.

##### 4.4. Collocation

Yule (2006:108) maintains that "one way we seem to organise our knowledge of words is simply on the basis of *collocation*, or frequently occurring together". Bloor (2007:130) argues that a careful examination of co-occurring words in a large body of texts (a corpus) and observing the way they are applied can prove fruitful to reveal the sort of meaning and message people associate with a particular word. In this study, a survey of *collocation* in relation to AMs' will be investigated to reveal the types of word used in the ND to connect them to AMs after the AS that helps determine their representation in the ND.

## 5. METHODOLOGY

### 5.1. Data Collection and Sampling

The data for this paper is comprised of eight articles in the websites of two western newspapers. Among the newspapers published in the UK and US, two of the most popular and highly referred ones are selected including the Independent (IN) from the UK; and the Washington Post (WP) from the U.S. The selection of these two newspapers is due to a number of reasons. Firstly, they are regarded as elite newspapers and are among the largest media outlets in the United States and Britain and in terms of circulation and ranking. Secondly, they are leading newspapers with regard to the coverage of international news and views. The samples are collected from a time between 2010-2012. Another important factor concerning data collection is that the analysis is concerned with Extracts selected from the news text that best serve the aims of the study by adopting the analytical facilities of CDA to show the wide range of its analytical components. The selection of data is shown in the table below.

**Table (5.1) The Selected Articles**

<i>Newspaper</i>	<i>The Independent</i>	<i>The Washington Post</i>
<i>Total number of Articles</i>	4	4

**Table (5.2) The Selected Extracts**

<i>Newspaper</i>	<i>The Independent</i>	<i>The Washington Post</i>
<i>Total number of Extracts</i>	8	8

### 5.2. Method of Analysis

News texts of the present study are analysed by following the framework of CDA in general and van Dijk's ideological Square and themes that are in contrast to the orientalists' themes of Islam as a threat, Untrustworthiness, Inferiority, Backwardness, irrationality, Submissiveness, Jews vs. Arabs, Strangeness in particular. The researcher has suggested themes in contrast to the Orientalists' themes and termed them: 'the New Westerners' Themes (NWTs). In the current study, a great focus is given to linguistic features, such as *naming*, *lexical choice*, *presupposition* and *collocation* that are used as tools for the microstructure level of analysis to show how analysis through these related tools contribute to a broader picture and how the notion of Ideological Square and the New Westerners' Themes are manifested in western discourse to make ideologies in discourse more transparent. The NWTs are used as macrostructures to help analyse the linguistic features mentioned above that each Extract of the chosen articles may have used as means for the construction of western descriptions of "Us" (i.e., the westerners) vs. "Them" (i.e., the AMs). The researcher will consider what NWTs in contrast to the Orientalists' Themes are explicitly or implicitly presented in the structures of the extracts selected from the two selected newspapers.

Analysing the articles linguistically through *naming choices*, *lexical choices*, *presupposition*, and *collocation* can be achieved by examining the ways in which AMs are referred to in order to establish ideologically "Us" vs. "Them" dichotomies. For the linguistics and ideological analysis, Extracts that contain portrayal of AMs in contrast to the Orientalists' Themes will be chosen from the selected articles and the results will be gathered and tabulated. Both quantitative and qualitative analyses are used

in the present study to provide better results of a CDA of the selected articles because they complement each other, where the former uses statistical methods to explain the data, whereas the latter is used to interpret social phenomena.

## 6. DATA ANALYSIS

In this part, the representation of AMs in Extracts taken from eight selected articles from the websites of *The Independent* and *The Washington Post* after the Arab Spring will be analysed ideologically according to van Dijk's ideological Square with regards to the dichotomous character (Us vs. Them) and linguistically in relation to *naming*, *lexical choices*, *presupposition*, and *collocation* manifested in the text.

### 6.1. The Independent

#### 6.1.1. Extracts from Article No.1

##### 'Egypt's elections leave its divisions unresolved'

##### Extract (1)

*Despite periodic doom-mongering and a few localised clashes, the country has not descended into violence, nor have the elections been discredited by widespread violations. Not everything has been perfect, but the process has been cleaner and better organised than many anticipated. It is to be hoped that this impression is not contradicted by anything that might come to pass before the run-off next month.*

##### Extract (2)

*What is regrettable is the way this young, generally moderate and secular swathe of society has largely vanished from view. As in so many revolutions, the forces that created it have split. The effect is to leave Egyptian voters with the very same polarised alternatives that helped fuel the uprising in the first place: on the one hand is the Muslim Brotherhood, formerly banned from politics; and on the other, the forces of conservative and secular patriotism represented by the Mubarak clan.*

##### Extract (3)

*An orderly and genuinely contested election for President is a considerable achievement in itself. But if its democracy is to grow sturdy roots, Egypt needs a leader who can command respect across its political and religious divides.*

Extract (1) above shows that the presidential election in Egypt has been achieved without any kind of violence in contrast to the Orientalists' of Islam as threat. Other positive images given to the AMs in Egypt are identified in the words "*cleaner*" and "*better*", which describe the presidential election organised in Egypt. This reveals that AMs are represented in the western news discourse (WND) as peaceful people. New names are given to the protestors, which can be identified in the lexical choices such as "*younger moderate and secular*". These adjectives carry a positive image about AMs. Extract (3) views AMs in contrast to the orientalist's themes of *Inferiority*, in which the West through the WND expresses a kind of respect to the new experience of the presidential election in Egypt after the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak. The West, in this Extract, presents the election as a considerable achievement and does not want to underestimate the process of election. Extract (3) shows that the west starts to respect

AMs as a nation that can change its affairs to be better. This ND can be regarded as a good shift in the way the West views the AMs, who have become equal to the West in relation to applying democracy. An ideological analysis is presented in the following table.

**Table (6.1) Parts Selected from the Extracts of Article No.1**

No.	Parts Selected	Ideological Square	
		Us	Them
1	the country has not descended into violence, nor have the elections been discredited by widespread violations	WND )	Egypt
	<b>Here, AMs, identified by the Egyptian voters are represented positively in this part of the Extract, which involves a new positive image in the WND about AMs.</b>		
2	What is regrettable is the way this young, generally moderate and secular swathe of society has largely vanished from view. As in so many revolutions, the forces that created it have split	WND	Egyptian (AMs)
	<b>This part shows that the West, identified by the WND, regret for the vanishing of the young, moderate, and secular protesters from the scene. This carries a positive image on AMs who have been represented in the text as young, moderate, and secular.</b>		
3	An orderly and genuinely contested election for President is a considerable achievement in itself.	WND	Egypt
	<b>The presidential election in Egypt as an Arab Muslim country is regarded in this selected part as an achievement that assigns a healthy spot in the Arab Muslim world (Them), which is highly appreciated by the West (Us) through The WND. This reveals a positive change in the ideology of the West toward AMs.</b>		

#### 6.1.1.1. Linguistic Analysis of the Extracts from Article No.1

For naming choices, in Extracts(1 and 2), the process of election has been given the names of '*cleaner and better organised*', which, in turn, carries a positive image on the AMs in Egypt after the AS. Besides, AMs are given the names of '*young, moderate, and secular*' to represent them in the text as peaceful people. In Extract (3), the election in Egypt is given the names of '*An orderly and genuinely contested election and a considerable achievement*', which, in turn, has its positive reflections on the Arab Muslims' Images in the West as it gives a positive picture on AMs after the AS and reveals them as not inferior but as equal to the westerners as far as the democratic election is concerned.

For lexical choices in Extracts (1 and 2), there are words that involve the meaning of the NWT of Arab Muslims are Peaceful. These words are: *elections, cleaner, better, organised, young, moderate, secular, Egyptian, voters, alternatives, uprising, conservative, and patriotism*. Also, in Extract (3), there are words that contains the meaning of NWT of Arabs Muslims are not Inferior to the Westerners. These words are: *orderly, genuinely contested, election, achievement, democracy, sturdy, roots, and respect*

In relation to presupposition, it is represented in:

*1. the country has not descended into violence, nor have the elections been discredited by widespread violations,*

which presupposes that there is a new positive picture viewed in the West with regard to AMs. This reflects the impact of AS on changing the negative image on AMs in the West.

2. *What is regrettable is the way this young, generally moderate and secular swathe of society has largely vanished from view,*

which presupposes that AMs are viewed moderate and secular by the West in contrast to their negative images before the AS.

3. *An orderly and genuinely contested election for President is a considerable achievement in itself,*

which presupposes that, after the overthrow of Mubarak, Egyptians are interested in making a democratic election. Such a representation of AMs in the WND reflects a positive image on AMs in the West after the AS.

Collocation, in Extracts(1 and2) , is clearly seen through the attributes given to the AMs, characterized by Egyptians , such as *young, moderate, and secular* .In **Extract(3)**,collocation is implicitly identified in the connection of AMs with respect as it is indicated in "*Egypt needs a leader who can command respect across its political and religious divides*",which reveals that the West through the ND thinks that AMs deserve respect.

### 6.1.2. An Extract from Article No.2

#### 'Mubarak's anointed one begins to assume power'

##### Extract (4)

*He was credited with saving Mr Mubarak's life in 1995 in Ethiopia by insisting that he travelled in an armoured car; the Egyptian President escaped unhurt when a gunman fired on the vehicle. A recent Wiki-Leaks cable attests to the value put by Washington on its intelligence relationship with Mr Suleiman, but also quotes him as pointing out that a peaceful resolution of the Israel-Palestinian conflict would be a "big blow to terrorist organisations that use it as a pretext".*

##### Extract (5)

*Mr Suleiman's credentials with Israel, much of the West, some other parts of the Arab world and with Mr Mubarak himself are not in doubt. Born in Qena, Upper Egypt, a graduate of Egypt's military academy and also trained in the former Soviet Union, as well as studying political science at Cairo University, he is a well-educated and street-wise official who prefers civilian clothes to the military uniform.*

Extract (4) above carries a positive image on the Arab Muslim's personality, identified by Mr Suleiman, the Egypt Vice president, who is represented as a trustful person who saved Mr Mubarak's life in 1995 in Ethiopia when he advised his president to travel in an armoured car. Such an image on an Arab Muslim gives a different assumption about AMs and helps change the stereotypical image reinforced in the minds of the westerners toward them. The Extract also reveals another positive image on AMs, characterized by Mr Suleiman, who sees that the Israel-Palestinian conflict can be solved peacefully to send a message to the terrorist organisation that using the Israel-Palestinian conflict as a pretext. This, in turn, shows that AMs are peaceful people. Extract (5) shows how AMs are viewed in contrast to the Theme of *Backwardness* reinforced in the West. The Arab Muslim's entity, characterized by Mr Suleiman, the Vice president of Egypt, is given a positive image via exposing his positive characteristics as an educated person through focusing on the academies and universities he attended. Also, there is a reference to the clothes she prefers, which reflects his simple life. This shows that Arab Muslims' Images in the WND have changed after the AS as the ND starts to look at AMs as civilized people like the westerners. The ideological analysis is presented in the following table The following table will analyse the Extract ideologically.



**Table (6.2) Part Selected from the Extract of Article No.2**

No.	Part Selected	Ideological Square	
		Us	Them
4	He was credited with saving Mr Mubarak's life in 1995 in Ethiopia by insisting that he travelled in an armoured car; the Egyptian President escaped unhurt when a gunman fired on the vehicle.	WND	Mr Suleiman (an Arab Muslim)
	<b>This part represents a positive image on AMs (Them), which contradicts the previous negative image viewed in the West (Us). Such a representation declares that there is a positive change in the ideology of the West toward AMs.</b>		
5	Born in Qena, Upper Egypt, a graduate of Egypt's military academy and also trained in the former Soviet Union, as well as studying political science at Cairo University, he is a well-educated and street-wise official who prefers civilian clothes to the military uniform.	WND	AMs (represented by Mr Suleiman)
	<b>An Arab Muslim's personality, characterized by Mr Suleiman, is given a positive representation in WND, which carries an indication of a change in the ideology of the West (Us) toward AMs (Them) who have been portrayed as uncivilized and backward before the AS.</b>		

### 6.1.2.1. Linguistic Analysis the Extract from Article No.2

For naming choices, no references in relation to AMs are not found in Extract (4 and 5).

In relation to lexical choices in Extract (4), there are words that involve the meaning of NWT of *Arab Muslims are Trustful People*. These words are: *credited, insisting, saving, peaceful, resolution, and blow*, which are used in the text to describe Mr Suleiman. In Extract (5), there are words that implicitly imply the meaning of NWT of *Arabs Muslims are Civilized*, which exposes AMs as civilized people. These words are: *Graduate, military, academy, trained, studying, political, science, university, well-educated, street-wise, and civilian*.

As for presupposition, in Extract (4) is represented in:

*... but also quotes him as pointing out that a peaceful resolution of the Israel-Palestinian conflict would be a "big blow to terrorist organisations that use it as a pretext",*

which presupposes that AMs, characterized by Mr Suleiman, prefer peaceful resolutions to terror in relation to the Israel-Palestinian conflict in contrast to the negative image on AMs viewed in the West before the AS.

In Extract (5), *presupposition is identified in*

*Born in Qena, Upper Egypt, a graduate of Egypt's military academy and also trained in the former Soviet Union, as well as studying political science at Cairo University,*

which presupposes that there is a change in the way the West views AMs after the AS since the ND represents them positively as civilized people.

Collocation, in Extract (4), is implicitly identified in the connection of Mr Suleiman, an Arab Muslim, and trustworthiness, which is clearly seen through the description of his personality in the text. Also, AMs, in this Extract, are collocated with peace as it is indicated in *'a peaceful resolution of the Israel-Palestinian conflict would be a "big blow to terrorist organisations that use it as a pretext",* which reveals their preference to peace. In Extract (5), collocation is identified through the attributes such as *'graduate, well-educated, and street-wise'* given to the AMs, characterized by Mr Suleiman, which reveals a positive change in the West in relation to representing the AMs in The ND.

**6.1.3. Extracts from Article No.3****'Egypt: The diary of an unfinished revolution'****Extract (6)**

*Protesters occupy the street of the parliament. Vice President Suleiman warns that calls for a campaign for civil disobedience are "very dangerous for society". WaelGhonim declares himself "ready to die" to bring change to Egypt.*

**Extract (7)**

*Mubarak refuses to stand aside, despite the army announcing that protesters' demands would be met. Mubarak's speech is met with angry chants of "Leave! Leave!" in Tahrir Square.*

These two Extracts describe the situation in Egypt during the demonstration took place in the country in the end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011. The Extracts reveal new pictures on AMs, identified by the Egyptians, in the WND that exposes them not as submissive people in contrast to the previous picture before the Arab spring that views them as submissive people who can be controlled according to the Orientalist's Theme of *Submissiveness*. In Extract (6), the new AMs' spirit is seen in the challenge in WaelGhonim's character who declares himself "ready to die" to bring change to Egypt. In Extract (7), the spirit of challenge and bravery is exposed in the WND through the Egyptians' one united demand with angry chants that Mubarak should leave. Such a representation of AMs in the WND shows that there is a positive change in their portrayal in the WND. The Extracts are analysed ideologically below.

**Table (6.3) Parts Selected from the Extracts of Article No.3**

No.	Parts Selected	Ideological Square	
		Us	Them
6	WaelGhonim declares himself "ready to die" to bring change to Egypt.	WND	WaelGhonim
	In this part, AMs, characterized by WaelGhonim who is exposed as brave man, reveals a change in the ideology of the West (Us) toward AMs (Them). It emphasizes that (Them) are good.		
7	Mubarak's speech is met with angry chants of "Leave! Leave!" in Tahrir Square.	WND	Protesters
	In this part, AMs' challenge (Them) is exposed in WND, which, in turns, identifies them as brave people who can stand against the autocratic regime. It shows that AMs are considered positively in the West (Us). It emphasizes that (Them) are good.		

**6.1.3.1. Linguistic Analysis of the Extracts from Article No.3**

For naming choices, in these Extracts, AMs characterized by Egyptians, are given the names of '*Protesters*' to represent them positively in the ND as this word carries positive connotation, which contradicts the negative naming given to AMs before the AS as they were given the name of terrorists.

For lexical choices, there are words that contain the meaning of the NWT of *Arab Muslims are Courageous not Submissive*. These words are: *protesters, disobedience, ready, die, bring, change, army, announced, angry, chants, and leave.*

Presupposition is identified in:

*WaelGhonim declares himself "ready to die" to bring change to Egypt,*

which presupposes that AMs are courageous people as it is indicated in "*ready to die*", which implies a sort of courage related to AMs.

Collocation, in these Extracts, is identified in the connection between AMs and challenge and determination, which can be noticed throughout the texts in: *Mubarak's speech is met with angry chants of "Leave! Leave!" in Tahrir Square*, where the repetition of the of the verb 'leave' shows a kind of determination.

**6.1.4. An Extract from Article No.4**  
**'Robert Fisk: Egypt's day of reckoning '**

**Extract (8)**

*We are proud of the Tunisians – they have shown Egyptians how to have pride," another Egyptian colleague said yesterday. "They were inspiring but the regime here was smarter than Ben Ali in Tunisia. It provided a veneer of opposition by not arresting all the Muslim Brotherhood, then by telling the Americans that the great fear should be Islamism, that Mubarak was all that stood between them and 'terror' – a message the US has been in a mood to hear for the past 10 years."*

This Extract shows that Tunisians, who are AMs, have become a symbol of pride in the Arab world because they have shown a great deal of courage that motivated the Egyptians to protest against the regime in Egypt. This is a new positive image about AMs in that it exposes them as people who are proud of themselves for they could reach their aims to get rid of the autocratic regimes. Such a representation contradicts the old image about them in the West that portrayed them as strangers as compared to the westerners. The following table provides an ideological analysis to this Extract.

**Table (6.4) Part Selected from the Extract of Article No.4**

No.	Part Selected	Ideological Square	
		Us	Them
8	We are proud of the Tunisians – they have shown Egyptians how to have pride," another Egyptian colleague said yesterday.	WND	AMs
	Exposing such a picture about AMs (Them) in WND reveals that the West (Us) has changed its ideology toward them. It emphasizes that (Them) are good. Such an ideology was not found before the AS.		

**6.1.4.1 Linguistic Analysis of the Extract from Article No.4**

For naming choices, in this Extract, AMs are referred to by their nationalities "*Tunisians*, and *Egyptians*", which implies a kind of respect directed by the West through the ND toward AMs after the AS, which differs from the naming of AMs before it as they were given the names of terrorists, extremists, and radicals that associate them with terrorism and threat.

As for lexical choices, there are words that implicitly carry the meaning of the NWT, which represents AMs as equal to the westerners. These words are: *proud, Tunisians, shown, Egyptians, pride, inspiring, provided, a veneer, and opposition.*

In relation to presupposition, it is represented in:

*We are proud of the Tunisians – they have shown Egyptians how to have pride,"*

Here, it is presupposed that Tunisians are symbol of pride that should be considered as a good example for AMs in the Arab countries that motivated them to protest against their repressive regimes.

Collocation is pointed out in the connection between AMs, characterized by Tunisians, and pride noticed in the ND:

'We are proud of the Tunisians', which represents them as people that AMs should feel proud of.

## 6.2. The Washington Post

### 6.2.1. Extracts from Article No.1

#### 'Libyan rebels renew hopes of Arab Spring '

##### Extract (1)

*In Syria, for instance, largely peaceful demonstrations have persisted and spread for many weeks despite a violent response from the military and secret services that has killed more than 2,000 people, according to human rights groups.*

##### Extract (2)

*The Arab Spring erupted with stunning results in January, when pro-democracy protesters in Tunisia chased their longtime ruler, Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, into exile. The next month, even bigger crowds in Egypt forced the abdication of President Hosni Mubarak. Both revolutions avoided heavy bloodshed and raised hopes that similar changes would sweep across the rest of the Arab world. But that optimism had steadily faded until Sunday, when Libya's rebels finally broke a stalemate with Gaddafi and swept into Tripoli.*

##### Extract (3)

*Mustafa Barghouti, an independent politician in the West Bank who for years has organized popular protests against Israeli occupation, called the Egyptian and Tunisian revolutions "the best model" because they also embraced nonviolence.*

These three Extracts introduced in the WND expose AMs who demonstrated against the autocratic regimes in Syria, Tunisia, and Egypt as peaceful people who protest against the repression they suffer from for a long time. The revolutions in these countries avoided bloodshed and they are considered as the best model because they embraced nonviolence as the Extract revealed. Such a representation of AMs in the ND implies that the West has changed the negative images on AMs after the AS, which contradicts the previous image about them before the AS, where AMs were viewed as terrorists and dangerous people who threaten the peace of the world. In the following table, ideological realization is presented.

**Table (6.5) Parts Selected from the Extracts of Article No.1**

No.	Parts Selected	Ideological Square	
		Us	Them
1	peaceful demonstrations have persisted and spread for many weeks despite a violent response from the military and secret services that has killed more than 2,000 people	WND	AMs
	<b>In this part, an apparent change in the ideology of the West (Us) toward AMs (Them) is manifested in the text as their demonstrations is described as peaceful, which implies that AMs are peaceful people and not terrorists.</b>		
2	Both revolutions avoided heavy bloodshed and raised hopes that similar changes would sweep across the rest of the Arab world	WND	the Egyptian

			and Tunisian revolutions
	Here, also the positive change in the ideology of the West (Us) toward AMs is noticed through the description of the Arab Revolutions as clean revolutions where no bloodshed has been seen.		
3	Mustafa Barghouti, an independent politician in the West Bank who for years has organized popular protests against Israeli occupation, called the Egyptian and Tunisian revolutions “the best model” because they also embraced nonviolence	WND	the Egyptian and Tunisian revolutions
	In this part, two positive changes in the ideology of the West (Us) toward AMs (Them) can be noticed. First, representing an Arab Palestinian positively in the text and Israelis are represented negatively for they are described as occupiers. Second, the Arab revolutions are described as the best model that embraced nonviolence.		

### 6.2.1.1. Linguistic Analysis of the Extracts from Article No.1

For naming choices, in these Extracts, AMs and their demonstrations are given the names of '*pro-democracy protesters*' and '*peaceful demonstrations*' to represent AMs in the text as people who love democracy and that they demonstrate peacefully to achieve their aim of democracy. Such a depiction carries a positive picture on AMs in the WND after the AS and it implies that a new picture has begun to spread in the West toward them.

With reference to lexical choices, there are words that contain the meaning of the NWT, which represents AMs as peaceful. These words are: *persisted, spread, despite, stunning, results, revolutions, avoided, heavy bloodshed, raised, hopes, optimism, organized, popular, protests, best model, embraced, and nonviolence.*

As for presupposition, it is represented in:

*Both revolutions avoided heavy bloodshed and raised hopes that similar changes would sweep across the rest of the Arab world,*

which presupposes that AMs are not terrorists but peaceful people since during their revolutions they avoided heavy bloodshed.

Collocation, in these Extracts, can be seen in the connection between AMs and *peace and hope*, which are clearly seen in the representation of their revolutions in the ND:

*'In Syria, for instance, largely peaceful demonstrations have persisted and spread for many weeks', and 'Both revolutions avoided heavy bloodshed and raised hopes that similar changes would sweep across the rest of the Arab world'.*

### 6.2.2 An Extract from Article No.2

**'U.S. must take sides to keep the Arab Spring from Islamist takeover'**

**Extract (4)**

*The notion that America's interventions in the Arab world have made it a toxic agent that should stand aside is a presumption of the Western intelligentsia — and one rejected by Arab protesters, the majority of whom have not uttered anti-American slogans. The springtime of the Arab world offers the United States an opportunity to reclaim its values and redeem its interests. America has a stake in the future of*

*the Middle East and should not shy away from cultivating the nascent democratic movements sweeping the region.*

This Extract implicitly involves a fact that the West should rethink of the future of the ME after the new democratic movements that swept in the region. Also, the Extract focuses on a fact the AMs, identified by the protesters, rejected the American interventions in the Arab World, which, in turn, implies that ND considers AMs not as inferior to the westerners, but instead, they are equal to them, and that they have to consider them as a nation that has its own right in the democratic changes and avoid interfere in its internal affairs. The United States in this Extract is exposed as the side that can make benefit from the AS, which offers it the opportunity to reclaim its value and redeem its interests. This Extract is ideologically analysed below.

**Table (6.6) Part Selected from the Extract of Article No.2**

No.	Part Selected	Ideological Square	
		Us	Them
4	The springtime of the Arab world offers the United States an opportunity to reclaim its values and redeem its interests	America	The Arab world
	<b>This part shows a new ideology of the West (Us) represented in the ND toward AMs (Them) in that AMs are no longer seen as inferior to the West, but instead, the West finds interests in reclaiming Arab World values and interests.</b>		

**6.2.2.1.Linguistic Analysis of the Extract from Article No.2**

For naming choices, in this Extract, AMs are given the names of '*Arab protesters*', which shows that the ND represents them positively in the text as in contrast to their negative representation before the AS.

In relation to lexical choices, the meaning of the NWT *Arabs Muslims aren't Inferior to the Westerners*, previously mentioned, is realized in the use of certain words. These words are: *springtime, offer, opportunity, reclaim, value, redeem, interest, stake, should, shy, cultivating, nascent, democratic, movements, and sweeping.*

As for presupposition, it is represented in:

*The springtime of the Arab world offers the United States an opportunity to reclaim its values and redeem its interests,*

which presupposes that the AS is a significant event that draws the attention of the United States to the importance of the Arab World and, in turn, to the AMs in the ME.

Collocation can be realized in the connection between Springtime, achieved by AMs, and *opportunity and values* noticed in:

*The springtime of the Arab world offers the United States an opportunity to reclaim its values and redeem its interests.*

**6.2.3. An Extract from Article No.3****'Egyptian soldiers show solidarity with protesters, activist ElBaradei joins demonstrations'****Extract (5)**

*On Saturday, demonstrators held aloft banners reading "Don't burn Egypt," and some bragged of having guarded the famed Egyptian Museum from looters until army commandos arrived on the scene Friday night.*

This Extract in the ND exposes a positive image on AMs, characterized by the Egyptian demonstrators, viewing them as civilized and not barbaric people who want to guard the famed Egyptian Museum from looters. Presenting AMs in the WND as such implies a new positive change of the perception of AMs in the West for it contradicts the old stereotyped image on them before the AS as they were portrayed in the WND as backward, uncivilized, and barbaric. The following table will provide an ideological analysis to the Extract.

**Table (6.7) Part Selected from the Extract of Article No.3**

No.	Part Selected	Ideological Square	
		Us	Them
5	On Saturday, demonstrators held aloft banners reading "Don't burn Egypt," and some bragged of having guarded the famed Egyptian Museum from looters	WND	Egyptian demonstrators
	There is a positive change in the ideology of the West (Us) toward AMs (Them) with reference to the Theme of <i>Backwardness</i> in the sense that AMs are represented as civilized people who want to protect their heritage.		

**6.2.3.1. Linguistic Analysis of the Extract from Article No.3**

For naming choices, in this Extract, AMs are given the names of 'demonstrators' to refer to the Egyptians during their revolution against Mubarak's regime.

With reference to lexical choices, the words that contain the meaning of the NWT of AMs are civilized are: *held, banners, Don't burn, Egypt, bragged, guarded, famed, and Museum.*

Presupposition is realized in:

*demonstrators held aloft banners reading "Don't burn Egypt",*

which presupposes that AMs are not backward as they were portrayed in the WND before the AS since they want to guard their famed heritage.

As for Collocation, it is identified in:

*some bragged of having guarded the famed Egyptian Museum,*

in which AMs in Egypt are implicitly collocated with civilized people as the word '*bragged*' suggests that.

**6.2.4. Extracts from Article No.4****Obama chose the right course on Libya****Extract (6)**

*Representation is fraud," Gaddafi wrote, and parliaments were part of an "obsolete theory." Instead, he proposed to govern Libya like the ringleader of an anarchic circus, with himself dressed in outlandish uniforms that, variously, made him look like a "Star Wars" character or the leader of a bouzouki band. His capricious experiment only made tribal power more important.*

**Extract (7)**

*“A nation is a tribe which has grown through procreation,” Gaddafi opined in his manifesto. But that was just the problem. Gaddafi’s Libya wasn’t one tribe but many; the same is true for most of the nearby nations that are now caught up in the Arab Spring.*

**Extract (8)**

*Obama took a lot of shots along the way to Thursday’s symbolic end of the Libya campaign. But it seems fair to say that his vision of opposing Gaddafi through a broad, international coalition — in which other nations shared the burden, for a change — worked out pretty well.*

These Extracts taken from the above articles show the way Libya was governed by Gaddafi, in which he was represented as a dictator who governed Libya like the ringleader of an anarchic circus. They also reveal that Libya is a tribe, which has grown through procreation and that Gaddafi is the only person who runs everything in Libya, which, in turn, has impact on the whole society that has become the victim of his repressive regime. Moreover, the Extracts present Obama's role to put an end of Gaddafi's dictatorship and the suffering of Libyan society under his autocratic regime. The idea that could be elicited from the above Extracts is that Libyans are represented as victims that they deserve to help to get rid of this autocratic regime and that implies a new positive attitude by the West toward AMs, who are considered in the ND as victims that should be helped, which contradicts the previous negative on them that portrayed them as terrorists. In the following table, an ideological analysis is given.

**Table (6.8) Parts Selected from the Extracts of Article No.4**

No.	Parts Selected	Ideological Square	
		Us	Them
6	Representation is fraud,” Gaddafi wrote, and parliaments were part of an “obsolete theory.” Instead, he proposed to govern Libya like the ringleader of an anarchic circus, with himself dressed in outlandish uniforms that, variously, made him look like a “Star Wars” character	WND	Libyans
	<b>Gaddafi's dictatorship is clearly presented in the WND only to show the suffering of the Libyans under his tyrannical regime. Ideologically, exposing the situation in Libya as such in the WND implies that there is a change in the western ideology (Us) toward the AMs (Them) to reveal their suffering and to give them the right to revolutionize against their dictators.</b>		
7	A nation is a tribe which has grown through procreation,” Gaddafi opined in his manifesto. But that was just the problem. Gaddafi’s Libya wasn’t one tribe but many;	WND	Libyan President Gaddafi
	<b>The WND, here, also focuses on the Gaddafi's character to reveal the way he governs the country to give the right to Libyans to protest against him, which ,in turns, constitutes a change in the ideology of the West (Us) toward AMs (Them), who are implicitly represented as victims.</b>		
8	his vision of opposing Gaddafi through a broad, international coalition — in which other nations shared the burden, for a change worked out pretty well.	US President Obama	Libyan President Gaddafi
	<b>Exposing the value in Obama's visions against Gaddafi, in the text, presents the West (Us) as interested in finding a solution to the suffering of the Libyans, and also implies a change in their reinforced ideology toward AMs (Them), which has changed into viewing Them as Victims rather than Terrorists.</b>		



**6.2.4.1. Linguistic Analysis of the Extracts from Article No.4**

For naming choices, the ND represents the procedure followed by Gaddafi to govern Libya as '*Representation is fraud*' to reveal how the people in Libya were victims of such a kind fraud regime.

As for lexical choices, there are words that expose AMs as victims of their regime. These words are: *fraud, obsolete, govern, ringleader, outlandish, Star Wars, capricious, opined, opposing, and burden.*

In relation to presupposition, it is realized in:

*He proposed to govern Libya like the ringleader of an anarchic circus, with himself dressed in outlandish uniforms that, variously, made him look like a "Star Wars" character,*

which presupposes that Gaddafi was very rigid and tough in his ruling of Libya and that the Libyans were victims of such rigidity indicated in the word '*ringleader*'.

No references to collocation have been identified.

All the selected Extracts from the articles of IN and WP after the AS have been analysed in a similar way and the findings of this analysis are presented in the tables below.

**Table (6.9) The NWTS: Total Numbers and Percentages in the Independent (IN) and the Washington Post (WP).**

New Westerners' Theme	IN	WP	Total	% of Total
<i>Arab Muslims are Peaceful</i>	1	1	2	25%
<i>Arab Muslims are Trustful</i>	1	0	1	12.5%
<i>Arab Muslims are not Inferior to the Westerners</i>	0	1	1	12.5%
<i>Arab Muslims are Civilized</i>	1	1	1	12.5%
<i>Arab Muslims are Courageous not Submissive</i>	1	0	1	12.5%
<i>Arab Muslims are Equal to the Westerners</i>	1	1	2	25%
<i>Arab Muslims are Victims of Autocratic Regimes</i>	0	1	1	12.5%
<b>Total No. of Extracts</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>100%</b>

The Names given to AMs that have been noticed through the analysis of the selected Articles in the IN and WP after the AS are: *Citizens, Young/Moderate/Secular, Protesters/ Demonstrators, Civilized people, Friends, /Brothers /Others, Voters, Successful businesswoman, Organizers/activists, Nationality Names, Proper Names, Pro-democracy protesters/ peaceful, Educators, Profession Names, Young generation, Ordinary people, Young /old, Employed /jobless, Sunni /Shiite.*

The frequency of these words is summarized in the following table.

**Table (6.10) Naming Choices given to (AMs) in the Independent (IN) and the Washington Post (WP) before the AS**

New Westerners' Theme	IN	WP	Total	% of Total
<i>Young/Moderate/Secular</i>	1	0	1	11.11%
<i>Protesters/ Demonstrators</i>	1	2	3	33.33%
<i>Civilized people</i>	1	1	2	22.22%

<i>Nationality Names</i>	0	1	1	11.11%
<i>Pro-democracy protesters/ 'peaceful</i>	0	1	1	11.11%
<i>Educators</i>	1	0	1	11.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>

The words that collocate with AMs through the analysis of Extracts in the IN and WP after the AS are: *Courage and dignity, Secularity, Trustworthiness, Peace and non-violence, Respect, Sovereignty, Educated people, Civilized people, Ambition, Victory, Success, Freedom and democracy, Happiness, Pride, Determination, Poverty and deprivation, Openness and normality, Opportunity and values, Prosperity, Talented people and inventors, Optimism, Heroism, Challenge, Kindness, and Patriotism.* The frequency of these words is summarized in the following table.

**Table (6.11) Words Collocating with the (AMs) in the Independent (IN) and the Washington Post (WP)**

Words collocating with AMs	IN	WP	Total	% of Total
<i>Trustworthiness</i>	1	0	1	9.09%
<i>Peace and hope</i>	0	1	1	9.09%
<i>Respect</i>	1	0	1	9.09%
<i>Educated people</i>	1	0	1	9.09%
<i>Civilized people</i>	2	1	3	27.27%
<i>Pride</i>	1	0	1	9.09%
<i>Determination</i>	1	0	1	9.09%
<i>Poverty and deprivation</i>	0	1	1	9.09%
<i>Opportunity and values</i>	0	1	1	9.09%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 7. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 7.1. Discussion

The analysis has revealed that the images of AMs have changed positively in a very significant way in the sense that their representation after the AS draws more moderate image on them in the WND. There are some signs of change in the nature of the attitudes of the West towards AMs. It is to be considered as the most important matter in this period since it can be counted as a great change in the attitude of western newspapersthat can help cancelling the negative stereotyped images on AMs in the West due to the reinforced Orientalists' themes(See table:6.9) . Such a representation tends to emphasize a positive picture on them after the revolutions that spread in the MEANA. The image of AMs as peaceful and innocent, in contrast to terrorists, has dominated in the analysed articles which, in turn, have revealed the reflections of the AS that have had a positive effect on the portrayal of AMs .The analysis has shown that after the AS the depictions of AMs and their cultural and political issues concentrate around the ideas that they are peaceful and innocent people andthat they are Equal to the Westerners have the highest number of instances in the selected data that have been analysed (See table 6.9).Applying van

Dijk's notion of Ideological Square to the discourse of the two newspapers in the period after the AS has emphasized their (AMs) good properties and action, and deemphasizing their bad properties and actions and made the demarcation between the West and AMs seem to be completely absent, which, in turn, confirms the hypothesis of the present study of the present study which reads: *The Arab Spring has impacts on changing the Arab Muslims' images in the western newspapers*. Also, it shows how Van Dijk's Ideological Square is represented in the text as the ideological analysis has shown that there is a change in the ideology of the West toward AMs in all the Extracts analysed after the AS.

## 7.2. Conclusions

The present study has come up with the following findings:

1. The study has concluded that the recent security developments in the ME have positive impacts on changing the AMs' images in the West. This has obviously been noticed through the way the selected newspapers have dealt with the events spread across the ME. The CDA of the selected extracts has shown that AMs have been represented positively after the AS and revealed that the Orientalists' Themes have been completely absent and replaced by what have been termed as **NWTs**. (See Table :6.9)

Also, the names and adjectives attributed to the AMs' character realized through the linguistic analysis in relation to *naming* and *collocation* have identified a positive change in the attitude of the West toward AMs (See: table 6.10 and 6.11). They are no longer seen as terrorists, uncivilized, brutal, backward people or anti-democracy who oppress woman. Instead, they are, under the influence of the revolutions sparked widely in their countries, depicted as young/moderate/secular, pro-democracy protesters, peaceful, educators and etc. (See: table 6.10) in the western media. Such a depiction is apparently characterized by the language of the news used by the westerners, whether British or American, that tries to reveal Arabs as patriotic revolutionaries who try to change their miserable lives and as heroes who can stand against their autocratic regimes.

2. The given hypothesis of the present study which claims that all the western newspapers are similar in their representations of **the AMs** after **the AS** has also been established. The two selected British and American newspapers namely, have revealed similar attitudes toward the AMs and approximately used similar language to describe them after the events in the ME. . The two selected newspapers have similar attitudes toward the AMs after the AS in the sense that they have highlighted positive images on AMs as it has been realized through the linguistic analysis in relation to *naming* and *collocation* where AMs have been given the names which are associated with positive pictures and collocated with new word that carry a positive representation as it is indicated in tables (6.10 and 6.11).
3. Applying van Dijk's notion of ideological square to the ND after the AS has come with results that emphasize their (AMs) good properties and action and deemphasizing their bad properties and actions made the demarcation between the West and AMs seem to be completely absent,
4. The study has concluded that such an analysis is significant, as it shows that the presence of Orientalist features in the western mainstream interpretation of the "Arab Spring" is a very important issue because this interpretation undermines its reliability and shows the necessity of developing more accurate knowledge of Arab countries and of their relationships with the West .

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