



IDENTITY FORMATION THROUGH MASS COMMUNICATION: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF NEWS ARTICLES FROM CNN AND TRT WORLD NEWS

*Amna Iftikhar Shah
Graduate*

*Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Baharia University
Karachi - Pakistan
amnaiftikharshah@gmail.com*

*Dr. Muhammad Asif
Assistant Professor*

*Department of English
National University of Modern Languages
Karachi - Pakistan
masiframzani7@gmail.com*

*Syed Muhammad Sajid Siraj
Lecturer*

*Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Baharia University
Karachi - Pakistan
siraj146@gmail.com*

Abstract

News is an important source of information in this age, the masses form their opinions and believe in ideologies as an effect of what they watch on news, the news channels carefully select lexical items to deconstruct the narrative of the opposing power, and to influence the masses to into believing that they are right. News, the way it is presented tells a lot about the mindset of the entire media platform and as to whose interests it protects, while sublimely sabotaging those of others. Muslims have long been subjected to hate crimes and still are considered to be the sole troublemakers, while if Muslims are attacked the news is generally not given proper coverage and if it gets attention, the Muslims are sympathized with in a way that it protects the attacker, or at least safe side him/her. This study focuses on the Christchurch



Mosque Attacks in New Zealand. In this qualitative research, News articles from two leading international news channels have been taken to be analyzed on the basis of Critical Discourse Analysis through Norman Fairclough's Three-Dimensional model of Discourse, this research will help its readers to comprehend the role of language to manipulate the masses, by covering, presenting, broadcasting and publishing the news in a certain way to protect those in power while condemning others.

Keywords: News, Critical Discourse Analysis, Racism, Orientalism, Power Relation, Language

1. Introduction

News has been regarded as a primary source of Information, as it is known that language has a deep connection to power relations, the language used in both print and electronic media, especially news is carefully selected to sound and mean in a certain way, the lexical choices and the grammar used, or the tone of the news determines as to whom it is designed for. As the news is watched and read by the masses every day and every minute of their lives, it is used to shape the thinking of the masses in a specific manner. Biasness has long been a part of the news and the story of one side is shown, whereas the other side of the story is deliberately hidden. This might protect the interests of one party and sabotage the others. As linguistics takes a rather universal approach of not confining the linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to lexical choices and grammar only but to the relatable social context that can decode many ideologies and mindsets behind the popular news and as to how this news is covered. The idea that lexical choices, grammar, semantics, phonology, or morphemes do not guarantee the complete understanding of the meaning of discourse or news to the fullest. "The rhetoric intent, the coherence, and the worldview that the author and receptor bring to the text are equally essential" (Kaplan, 1990). Reality cannot merely be seen through the lens of language but can also be created by creating a certain image of a certain matter, culture, religion, ideology, or political belief. Language, when it is used, is not neutral and has a definite purpose behind it, words that an individual uses have a definite intention behind them, and words are never meant to be neutral when it comes to discourse, words or phrases when used by someone as a medium of communication either as speech or text, it shows the interests and the ideology of that specific individual (Meinhof, 1994).

News channels or newspapers hold a significant position in the establishment of the general mindset of the society and as to what is to be considered socially acceptable and what is not, this area of influence is not confined to the norms of the society but also to the topics and issues that are talked about in the society, specifying the "way" one is supposed to talk about these issues (Henry & Tator, 2009). Both electronic and print media, especially in regard to the news, plays an important role in the formation of the mindset of the society, the very parameters of as to what



is right and what is to be considered wrong, the concept that news, where it makes the masses believe in one thing, simultaneously diverts them from another, interests and power relations are both built and sabotaged at the same time and the fact that at times the victims are shown as the culprits while showing the troublemakers are innocent and if not practically innocent, the way the news is covered and presented creates a soft-corner for the attacker among the masses. News is always presented in a certain way, aimed to create a certain effect on the masses, in a way that they develop a certain ideology or belief, whether it be political, religious, cultural, economic, or social. According to Taiwo, newspapers hold a position very important to the masses, as the initiation of the discourse on any important newsworthy event is covered, presented, and published by them, the newspapers select and interpret the statements of prominent political individuals, both of those in the government or in the oppositions, the celebrities, sportspersons and all those who the masses are interested to know about, the newspaper decides the way the news will be presented and published, keeping in mind the possible effect of the news on the masses and those involved, the way newspapers expose and interpret the people or specific personalities, shapes the opinions of the masses regarding them. Newspapers, in general, are adorned with certain vocabulary and careful lexical choices to achieve specific goals and tell their side of the story (Taiwo, 2007: 1).

This research paper aims to look at how the language used in two popular international news channels, depicts information on their website and in printed form (the same news is shown on television), also as to how the depiction of such news affects the masses, and power-relations in regard to the treatment of Muslims in the West and as to how two channels, one with majority non-Muslim audience and one with majority Muslim audience depict news regarding target terrorist attacks on Muslims.

The Study is focused on Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model, taking into consideration the socio-political and historical context. It also observed the interplay of language in the news and how it shapes opinions, ideologies, and power relations through Critical Discourse Analysis.

2. Literature Review

Critical Discourse Analysis is a product of Critical Linguistics, the term "*Critical Linguistics*" was first used in Roger Fowler and Gunther Kress's book "*Language and Control*" in 1979. In their opinion, this new tool of critical linguistics would help them understand the relationship between language and power. The term, Critical Discourse Analysis, first appeared in the early 1990s in the newly launched journal "*Discourse and Society*" by Van Dijk, this is where the notion of the Ccal Discourse Analysis began. It was further elaborated by Norman Fairclough, in his popular book *Language and Power* written in 1989, and Ruth's book "*Language Power and Ideology*" in 1998. The notion of CDA is not only limited to linguistics but other disciplines as



well, for instance, society, the study of cultures, psychology, semiotics, and anthropology (Kaleem, 2020).

CDA is an important tool to uncover certain patterns of language that are used to influence the masses to think in a certain way and to form a specific opinion regarding certain matters, CDA also helps in the critical evaluation, and the fabrication of comprehension in society (Caballero-Mengibar, 2015). CDA helps investigate using vocabulary and rhetorical devices the ideologies hidden behind subtle words and phrases that might seem as if they lack any effect but can have either positive or negative effects on the masses and the one's the news is about. The issues of ideologies are extremely complex, the reason for their complexity is the purpose behind them (Taiwo, 2007).

In their popular book, Bahaa-Eddin M. Mazi establishes the ground basics for the relationship of CDA with ideologies conveyed through language. In modern contemporary linguistics, CDA helps encompass the notions and ideologies hidden behind words, the idea that language is deeply connected to power, control, politics, and ideology, and can be decoded using the tools of CDA (Bahaa-eddin, 2014). News is shaped in a certain way that affects the way people think, there have been three ways shown for the analysis of language through, “(1) situating the texts in their socio-historical contexts, (2) analyzing the four pragma linguistic aspects, and (3) discussing and interpreting the findings and making cross-linguistic, cross-cultural and cross-genre comparisons” (Bahaa-eddin, 2014).

Norman Fairclough, who pioneered CDA's theoretical framework, in the year 1989, gave a “*Three-Dimensional Model of Discourse*”, which was revised later in the year 1995. He believed that semiotic and textual meanings in discourse are interrelated, in addition to the concept that both cannot be and are not comprehensible without one another. The establishment is in the text, but the actual meaning is in the aspect of semiotics. In his Model, Norman Fairclough establishes that every conversation or any experience of communication is based on three levels that are interconnected to one another: the first level is the text (whether it be spoken, written, or in the form of images), the second level is eloquent, that which consists of the production and utilization of the text, and the third level is the social practice, that concretizes the social structure. He initiated the three stages of CDA, based on the three layers of Discourse: Description, interpretation, and explanation.

Shojaei, Youssefi, & Hossenini (2013) stated that how the role of media in the twenty-first century is omnipresent for every “negative and positive” change in society. As the twenty-first century stands for all its rapid advancement in technology and science but it still depends on how Media functions its responsibilities and duties to channel their work. Further, they divided their research into different aspects such as language ideology, Van Dijk's notion of “*ideological square*”, critical discourse analysis, Van Dijk's socio-cognitive Appropriate to CDA, and



Fairclough's Approach to CDA. To prove the role of media more prominently they have constructed a chart and their research analysis on Syria's current crisis. The accusations of murder reported by the government against Clinton's condemnation of the massacre in a Syrian village. Now the term "massacre" has a great impact on an expression which leads to big criticism of the events as this words ideology is depicted as "*the killing of a large number of people particularly in a very cruel and brutal way*" (Shojaei, Youssefi, & Hossenini, 2013, p. 8). They concluded their research in short by presenting the idea that the mass media simply doesn't provide only a true perspective or interpretation of events but on a contrary can create its reality with their underlying political functions and ideology. Sriwimon, L., & Zilli, P. J mentioned how CDA research method had been criticized for its use of typical small numbers of texts and then leading its concerns to the representation of the text as biased for an intended purpose. To avoid this, they have used news reports with all the references to the former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra of Thailand for their case study to explain how gender stereotypes are linguistically generated to mock female politicians in media texts

Racist attacks on Muslims are nothing new, and the news coverage regarding any such attack, in which Muslims are specifically targeted, is covered and presented entirely differently. A study containing the information regarding the attacks on non-Muslims in Belgium and France, got worldwide attention, on the other hand, Muslims were targeted in both Turkey and Nigeria, and the news coverage made the attacks look unimportant as the news was not covered and presented by most of the international news channels and even if it was covered these events were depicted more as an internal conflict or an image of civil war rather than it being regarded as proper terrorist activities against Muslims (El-Nawawy & Elmasry, 2017). Social and mass media are no different, a series of online hatred on almost all social networking sites have now become increasingly common and that is ratios are alarming. From women being verbally and physically abused for barely "Looking" Muslim and the Mosques are being vandalized (Awan, 2014).

Soon after the attacks on a Famous Mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, a certain disparity was evident in the media and news coverage of the event. The New Zealand media Television channels were empathetic and considered the attacked Muslims as a part of their community while rarely showing the attacker, but severely condemning him. While other international Media networks, especially the Australian media, showed the perpetrator of the attack often, while not giving attention to the victims. The media termed and depicted Muslims as foreigners or rather inferiors (Ellis & Muller, 2020).

Attacks on two Mosques and the killing of fifty-one innocent Muslims was an eye-opening event for the government of New Zealand and for the entire world to know of the violence against Muslims, and the biased coverage, broadcast, and publishing of the event in news raised many questions in the minds of the people. The media emphasized victimizing the Muslims and calling such an attack a threat to humanity and minorities but carefully avoided telling any details



regarding the attacker or the reasons that made him commit such a heinous crime (Every-Palmer & Cunningham, 2020).

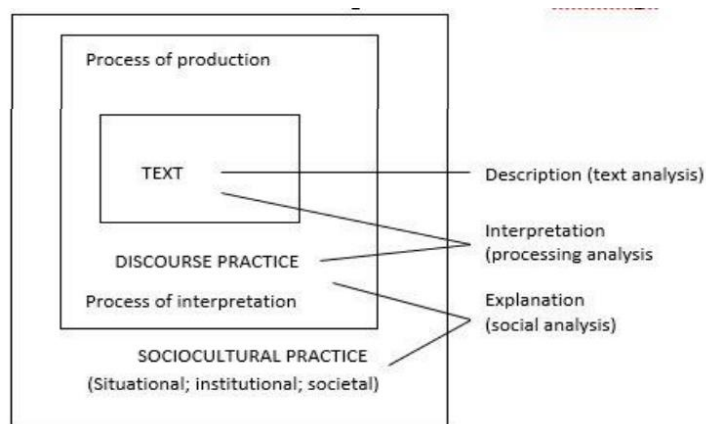
The portrayal by Muslims shows prejudice and bias, and a rather planned persecution, which is a potential threat to the Muslim community (Rahman, 2020).

3. Research Method

Critical discourse analysis is not a “readymade” concept of any societal analysis. This approach emphasizes choosing certain content and discourse structures to evaluate and implement the procedures of investigation in evaluation (van Dijk, 2001). The present study adopts the famous 3D model for CDA by Fairclough (1989) extensively implied to analyze various literary contents (e.g. see Ahmad & Ibrahim, 2018, and Mahmood & Majeed, 2019). Ten news articles (five from CNN and five from TRT World News) were selected through purposive sampling. Later, this qualitative data was analyzed by implying the content analysis approach. After the comprehensive reading and interpreting of the content different chunks were taken out to develop themes. For the interpretation of the analysis, each article was assigned a code from A1 to A5 along with the name of the news channel.

Norman Fairclough (1989), developed a three-layered or three-dimensional model of Discourse for Critical Discourse Analysis. In this model, he layered the Discourse into three stages, starting with the text, in both written and spoken form.

Figure 1: Three-Dimensional Model



(Adopted from Fairclough, 1995: 98)



According to Fairclough, “*Language is a part of the society*” (Fairclough, 1989). To further elaborate the concept, Fairclough argues that language is not only based on external factors but also internal ones. Language is the mirror image of the societal phenomena that people witness and accept as parts of their daily lives. Norman describes language to be an interactive process of society, and refers to it as “*a socially Conditioned process*” (Fairclough, 1989, p. 20), to further explain what it means to be “*a socially conditioned process*”, it means that the production of any text and the interpreting process, and the process itself, is deeply in connection with the societal practices. Text, on both productive and interpretive levels, is a cursory process, while analyzing a text or discourse puts the major focus on the social conditions in both production and interpretation of the text. To explain the connection between language with identity and ideology. As for Fairclough, he emphasizes the notion that CDA in both text and discourse helps to reveal the sublime meaning or the “*hidden agenda*” deliberately not shown to the people, this process of using language for the sake of protecting one’s interests and sabotaging other’s interests and incentives is widely used and helps to manipulate masses, convincing them to believe in a false image solely to protect the powers behind (Fairclough, 1989). Also, Fairclough argues, that language when used for the sake of power relations, possesses a “*hidden effect*”, that might not be apparent, but is sublimely transferred to the subconscious minds of the masses to either protect or condemn, a group, a religion, an ethnicity, a culture or an entire society. Critical Discourse Analysis possesses the purpose of achieving justice for the powerless and the oppressed (Wodak, 1989). Fairclough describes the concept, that identity, ideology, and language are deeply intertwined, this interlinked system can simultaneously be seen as, 1) a piece of language whether it be in the form of a text, or written or spoken, 2) the practice of Discourse, that which is not confined to text production only but also to text interpretation, 3) the cultural and social factors and aspects combined. To add to it, Fairclough also elaborates that discourse is not found on one level in society, but on many other levels including, individual, educational, and social levels (Fairclough, 1995).

4. Discussion and Analysis

For the current, the data was collected from two popular news channels, CNN and TRT World News. From both the channels ten news articles, posted on their official website, were analyzed. The articles were scrutinized on the basis of Norman Fairclough's Three-Dimensional model of Critical Discourse Analysis, along with intertextuality and hidden meanings on the basis of societal norms and power relations were also observed. The details of the articles from both the news channels, CNN and TRT World News are as follows:



4.1 News Articles from CNN

1. *“49 killed in a mass shooting at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. An Islamophobic Attack”*. By Helen Regan and Sandi Sidhu, CNN. March 15, 2019. Tagged as CNN, A1 (CNN Article, A1). (Regan & Sidhu, 2019).
2. *“New Zealand PM full speech: 'This can only be described as a terrorist attack”*. By Bianca Britton, CNN. March 15, 2019. (CNN, A2). (Britton, 2019).
3. *“In New Zealand, we will give him nothing-- not even his name, The hidden details By Khaled Beydoun. March 19, 2019. (CNN, A3). (Beydoun, 2019).*
4. *“In the New Zealand Mosque attack, the media faces an all-too-familiar problem”*. By Hadas Gold, CNN Business. March 15, 2019. (CNN, A4). (Gold, 2019).
5. *New Zealand's Christchurch Mosque terrorist sentenced to life in prison with no parole”*. By Donna-Marie Lever and Julia Hollingsworth, CNN. August 27, 2020. (CNN, A5). (Lever & Hollingsworth, 2020).

4.2 News Articles from TRT World News

1. *“The Islamophobic signs that defined the Christchurch terrorist”*. 15 MAR 2019. (TRT, A1). (The Islamophobic signs that defined the Christchurch terrorist, 2019).
2. *“Man, behind New Zealand terror attack a white supremacist”*. 15 MAR 2019. (TRT, A2). (Man behind New Zealand terror attack a white supremacist, 2019).
3. *“The Christchurch Attacks and white-nationalist discourse”*. By Razan Saffour and Michael Arnold. 22 MAR 2019. (TRT, A3). (Saffour & Arnold, 2019).
4. *“Christchurch attack: Why we should stop associating Islam with terrorism, The impact of news”*. By Sara Hassan. 15 MAR 2019. (TRT, A4). (Hassan, 2019).
5. *“Australian senator blames immigrants for mosque attacks after he's given life sentence”*. 27 August 2020. (TRT, A5). (Australian senator blames immigrants for mosque attacks, 2020).

4.3 Islamophobia

The articles selected for the analysis are of the day of the attacks, and around a week later. The themes of the same news of the same event are entirely different. Where CNN tends to focus on



the news and the facts, TRT World News focuses on the repetitive injustice faced by Muslims every now and then. The language used in these shows careful lexical choices to convey the desired meaning, keeping their majority audience in mind, the writers of the news articles and the main purpose of the channel itself, make it obvious that both the channels report news in a contrasting way.

To begin with, the first articles published from both channels, shortly after the attacks had entirely different lexical choices and themes. CNN apparently published the news for the sake of covering an event that everyone was talking about the article contained facts and was depicted as something regular and casual, while TRT published the article not merely as news or simply as a terrorist attack but as an issue that concerned the entire Muslim community. The title of (CNN, A1) (Regan & Sidhu, 2019), depicts fewer casualties by stating 49 dead, in the first paragraph of the article, Muslims are nowhere mentioned, but it states, that a consciously organized and unparalleled act of brutality that had the entirely peaceful and calm society in a traumatic situation. The article further mentions that the video of the mass killing was streamed online and shared by many, who later appeared in front of a court of law. It was not shocking that many supported “white Supremacy” when these videos were streamed. In the next paragraph (CNN, A1), it states that the “Suspect” of the attack had “Extreme views”, while the attacker was seen by millions online, he was not a suspect anymore, the article nowhere mentions the name of the attacker. Its later states that “A 28-years-old was charged with murder, says the New Zealand Police”. CNN itself reports that even though the situation was clear the investigation “remained fluid”. As for the attacks being live streamed on social networking sites like Facebook, the writer of the article, writes it as “Attack broadcast live on social media”. There is created a sense of vagueness, a sense of ambiguity to the things the masses have witnessed with their eyes. Its further states that the Authorities refuse to share the details of the possible reason, aim or purpose behind the attacks. Even though the attacker had posted an online manifesto that was anti-immigrant and thus anti-Muslim, this information was not elaborated.

The first article posted online by TRT World news (TRT, A1), states that a terrorist among other possible, potential terrorists who alone is responsible for more than 50 casualties because of the attacks on two Mosques, had a weapon, a gun, which was filled with different inscriptions, these inscriptions contained names of Islamophobic people and the dates on which the non-Muslims fought and defeated the Muslim armies, especially the Ottoman empire, he referred to the Turks as one of his “main targets”. The article starts by addressing the attacker as a terrorist, rather than a mere suspect. It then states that there have been more than 50 casualties. There were on the gun, the names of “White Supremacists” and soldiers who had fought against Muslims. The article describes the live stream on social media and the music that had been blaring in his car, a famous internet meme known as the “remove kebab” meme was also inscribed on the attacker’s gun, it was a song, or more of a racial slur, produced by the Serbs in the 1990s, as their main aim was Balkan Muslim’s ethnic cleansing. The same song played in Tarrant’s car when he live streamed



the attacks. The article presents the attacker as “a White Terrorist” and the tone of the article is quite different from the former article.

4.4 Racism

The next articles, (CNN, A2) (Britton, 2019) and (TRT, A2) (Man behind New Zealand terror attack a white supremacist, 2019), contain contrasting ideas. The tones are different when it comes to describing the event and the topic as well. (CNN, A2) (Britton, 2019), titles the article “*New Zealand PM full speech: 'This can only be described as a terrorist attack'*”, creating a sense of sympathy for the Muslim Community based in New Zealand, the reason is that by this time, that entire Muslim Population from the world and others started questioning the authority of those in power in New Zealand, and the Prime Minister simply tried saving grace. The Prime minister again addressed the attacker as a mere “suspect”. Throughout the entire speech, Prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, showed empathy towards the Muslims and the victims, but revealed no information regarding the suspect, only stating that an intelligence team has been deployed to rule out suspicions. On the contrary, (TRT, A2) (Man behind New Zealand terror attack a white supremacist, 2019), initially stated the Attacker behind two of the Christchurch Mosque shootings in New Zealand, that resulted in the death of 51 innocent Muslims, men, women, and children. The attacker, Tarrant, was a 28-year-old who was a white supremacist and of the idea that only Non-Muslims are supposed to live in the West, and no Muslims should live in Christian lands, and that he hated the Muslim migrants. There has been no article from TRT World News in which the attacker is referred to as anything else other than “the White Terrorist”, the article informs that the attacker made clear in his manifesto that he wanted revenge for the attacks in Europe by Muslims and that his sole purpose was to create fear. This was the reason he pleaded “*Not Guilty*” to all the charges imposed on him. His name was not revealed by the authorities and even when it was revealed it was not informed to the masses, but the manifesto he posted online, stated that his name was Brenton Tarrant. The attacker also said, in his online video that “*he hopes to survive to spread his idea on the media*”.

4.5 CDA and the meaning behind the words

The third pair of articles, (CNN, A3) (Beydoun, 2019) and (TRT, A3) (Saffour & Arnold, 2019), contained a conflict of purpose and of power relation as elaborated by Fairclough (1989). To begin with, (CNN, A3) (Beydoun, 2019), shows the Prime Minister of New Zealand insistent on not revealing the name of the attacker, sugar quoted in a statement that says, “*In New Zealand we will give him nothing -- not even his name*”. CNN itself admitted to the vague tone of the Prime Minister, stating that in the form of showing sympathy towards the Muslims and the victims the prime minister carefully hides sparing even the slightest of details regarding the attacker, furthermore, CNN, later stated, that the Muslims were merely shown as victims and those wrongly targeted, but remained completely ambiguous and unclear as the lexical choices were



deliberately vague so that masses would not have complete sympathy towards Muslims or in the fear that their image might be cleared or at least bettered in the eyes of the misconception Non-Muslims. There has always been a factor of disrespect when it comes to Muslims, and even if they are attacked, they are not victimized rather they are insulted for an individual's act of terror or violence. Islam and Muslims have been subjected to names like terrorists and troublemakers. Muslims in the eyes of the non-Muslim masses can only be seen as villains and never as victims or those who are not in the wrong (CNN, A3) (Beydoun, 2019). As for TRT A3 (Saffour & Arnold, 2019), the title states, "*The Christchurch attacks and white-nationalist discourse*", later, white supremacist ideology is truly personified by the attacker of the Christchurch Mosques, killings of more than 50 innocent Muslims, (TRT, A3) (Saffour & Arnold, 2019) also states, that this very ideology of white supremacy is a product of the orientalism, a notion that began long back, took hold in the 18th century with an alarmingly increasing hold till date, this backs up the claim made by Fairclough (1989) that language has a deep relationship with ideology and power relations which was quite evident in the attacks. TRT mentions the name of the "*terrorist*" always in the very first paragraph in almost every article, while it is rarely mentioned in any of CNN's online posted news articles. An important piece of information mentioned in (TRT, A3) (Saffour & Arnold, 2019) was that the attacker has emailed the prime minister, with anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant spews, stating, that for the survival of the "*white race*", the prime minister should stop the immigration program to prevent Muslim entering their soil and for the ones who are already here, they should be driven out of the lands of the Christian so that they do not create anymore ruckus (TRT, A3) (Saffour & Arnold, 2019). And at another place, he referred to the White's fight with the Ottoman Empire, he tried reminding the Christians that the ones before them fought the Muslims and died in wars and made many efforts against Muslims, thus, Christians should value those efforts. Edward Saeed's Orientalism takes hold at this point, the article states, that the actual orientalist perspective depicts Muslims as orthodox, fundamentalists, eccentric, exotic, troublesome, and obstructive, religions like Judaism and Islam are seen as the complete opposite of modernity and advancement (Said, 2018). The article further describes the White Nationalism that has sabotaged the image of Muslims internationally for too long now. The article also quoted a tweet from Twitter, the one tweet said that Muslims were not targeted by one person or an individual but by an entire mindset and an Islamophobic ideology.

4.6 News and Sublime Mind Control

In the fourth pair of articles, (CNN, A4) (Gold, 2019) and (TRT, A4) (Hassan, 2019), as Fairclough explained in his model of discourse analysis, language is interconnected to power relations and interests of the masses that support them and what those in power want the masses to believe in. The headings of both the articles clearly state their purposes, where CNN partially complains about the issue media platforms face when it comes to such attacks, the heading states, "In the New Zealand Mosque attack, the media faces an all-too-familiar problem". As for (TRT,



A4) (Hassan, 2019), the heading states, “*Christchurch attack: Why we should stop associating Islam with terrorism*”, and further states, that the reason why Muslims are still linked to the 9/11 world trade center attacks is because of the way the news media represented them, this created an image in the world that Muslims are extremists and fundamentalists, and thus, against Christians, the statements by those of the Non-Muslims in power say that it is important to separate religion from negative actions like terrorism, this only happened because the one who attacked the Muslims was from a Christian background (TRT, A4) (Hassan, 2019). The problem seems quite clear and the contrasting motifs too, where CNN complains that the platform has been declared as biased by many, TRT seconds in the opening statement of the article, arguing that Muslims are deliberately linked to terrorism due to the event of the 9/11 attacks, the news channel poses determined to erase the misconception that links terrorism to religion, and Islam specifically. TRT also mentioned the Muslim Countries that took notice and reacted to the incident, these countries including, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Turkey. A rather harsher statement was also published in the article, stating that more often than not, if a Muslim commits a crime or a Muslim individual is behind an attack, his identity, religion, ethnicity, and all the information gathered till that very time, start to show wildly on every TV screen because the media creates an artificial hype to make the masses believe that all Muslims are the same, but if the same degree of crime is committed by a Christian or a White person, he would not and is not considered as a terrorist or even as a white supremacist, regardless of the fact that Tarrant himself posted a 74-paged manifesto on a social networking site, against Muslims and Islam. Two of the most important statements and messages, Tarrant issued were, “*To the Turks, you can live in the lands that you own, and no one would come and attack you or harm you, but if you ever try to come to the Christian lands, you will be driven back to your country like cockroaches, the whites are coming to Constantinople, with the intention to destroy every Mosque and minaret and that the Hagia Sophia will no longer remain a place for Muslims but will be owned by the Christians, go to your lands till you actually have a chance. And “To Christians, the ones with glory, we have been blessed by so much from God to be witnessing disrespect and insult. You are living with an impure race who does not respect your religion nor the ones who represent your religion, they are barbarian, they neither care for the young nor the old, they separate children from their mothers in order to make them one of their own kind. Your places of worship are looted by these barbarians and disrespected, what else is left to say?*” (TRT, A4) (Hassan, 2019). None of these details were shared by CNN as the channel kept Broadcasting and publishing news regarding empathy towards Muslims and the details of the event itself and no detail of what caused the attacks. Further in the article (TRT, A4) (Hassan, 2019), it is stated that Islamic Terrorism has been normalized and has been made into a notion typically in connection with Islam and Muslims and not to non-Muslims conducting attacks against Muslims. As for the use of language, (TRT, A4) clearly states that the lexical choices made by the western media do not mention the Muslims as the victims of the attacks, although they were targeted in broad daylight, on Friday when the Mosques were full of worshippers. When a terror attack is carried out by Muslims, journalists and TV broadcasters easily term the attacks, terms like, the terror of Islam, of the Islamic



Fundamentalists, has a lot of time going on air, to feed the minds of the masses and to further erupt hate for Muslims, countless talk shows and debate programs are aired to stop the spread or the threats of the so-called Islamic Caliphate. As for (CNN, A4) (Gold, 2019), the statement with which the article begins was, that when the news of the attack on two Mosques in Christchurch first came, the news media face a quandary, as to how such news is going to be presented, and if it is presented, would it victimize the Muslims? And would such a piece of news or video help in spreading the attacker's message rather than showing that the Muslims have been wronged. Create further hate for them? Or encourage other people to do the same? This is a clear statement that a media platform like CNN cannot stay unbiased and above all does not allow complains. The entire article contains the confusion of whether to report the attacks or not in the fear of spreading more hate against Muslims, the lexical choices and themes of the article are clear enough to spare no information regarding the attacker.

4.7 Is Justice Served?

The last pair of articles, (CNN, A5) (Lever & Hollingsworth, 2020) and (TRT, A5) (Australian senator blames immigrants for mosque attacks, 2020), with the headings, CNN: "*New Zealand's Christchurch Mosque terrorist sentenced to life in prison with no parole*", and "*TRT: Australian senator blames immigrants for mosque attacks*", said, the actual reason that caused the bloodletting in New Zealand, is the immigration program that should not have been implemented because, after this program, eccentric Muslims came to New Zealand and disrupted the peace of a peaceful nation (Australian Senator Fraser Anning). As for the further debate, the Australian senator addressed the attacks as "*violent vigilantism*" rather than a terrorist attack, and to emphasize the image of Muslims being terrorists and not victims, it was further said, that the masses are scared, in both countries, New Zealand and Australia because of the growing Muslim population and those who migrate to their country. When Muslims complained of racism, it was termed as "cliched nonsense", and was not heard of. As for (CNN, A5) (Lever & Hollingsworth, 2020), this was the first article to include the attacker's name, Breton Tarrant, who was sentenced to life imprisonment with no chance of parole and never has courts given such a verdict before. The article condemns the act of the terrorist and sympathizes with the Muslims including their statements. The tone in this article was comparatively subtle, and lexical choices are careful too, the tone of (TRT, A5) (Australian senator blames immigrants for mosque attacks, 2020), is harsher and with a defined purpose as a reaction to the statement given by the Australian senator.

5. Conclusion

The present study analyzes five news articles each from two of the Leading International News Channels, CNN and TRT World News, in a qualitative method, with a research methodology based on Norman Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model of Discourse for Critical Discourse Analysis. This study reveals how language carries hidden meanings with the purpose of making



the masses think in a certain way and convincing them into keeping a certain mindset, the news channels issue what they want their audience to listen to and believe in, and also carefully choose lexical items and themes and topics for their news articles. Such articles and the way they are written manipulate the masses for the sake of power relations and to make them believe in certain ideologies and to appreciate some and condemn other people, based on their faith, ethnicity, and culture, in short, their identity. Muslims have long been subjected to hate crimes and racial violence, and still are considered to be those at fault, Muslims, if responsible for a crime, will easily be referred to as terrorists and radicals, and the entire Muslim Community is seen as homogeneous and culprits, an act of the individual is considered as the act of the entirety of Muslims, whenever Muslims are attacked, they are not considered as victims but as those responsible for their destruction, in addition to spreading fear and disrupting the peace of the World. On the contrary, when a White Supremacist commits a crime against Muslims, it is not given ample or even proper coverage and presentation by the News Channels. The news channels are fully aware of the way the masses internalize news and are impacted by it, creating a certain mindset.

6. Recommendations

The following recommendations will help future researchers in this field of research, those who would like to proceed with the analysis of the same event or any other relating to the misrepresentation of Muslims in the international media:

1. Researchers should look for events that have a vague representative or coverage in the news, or if some platforms carry one opinion and others, another opinion, it is important to look for conflict in the way the news is presented or if the facts are deliberately hidden.
2. Many events and their news representation can be analyzed in the same way, for this comparison between articles is the key, the news bias can easily be uncovered by this method.



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