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Diss: Discourse Analysis: Ahmed Qadoury Abed: 'A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Reproduction of Anti-Prophet Muhammad Media in Selected British and American Newspapers'

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Date: 26-Jul-2016

From: Ahmed Abed <ahmedqadouryabed@gmail.com>

Subject: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Reproduction of Anti-Prophet Muhammad Media in Selected British and American Newspapers



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Institution: University of Baghdad

Program: PHD Program (Linguistics)

Dissertation Status: Completed

Degree Date: 2015

Author: Ahmed Qadoury Abed

Dissertation Title: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Reproduction of Anti-Prophet Muhammad Media in Selected British and American Newspapers

Linguistic Field(s): Discourse Analysis

Dissertation Director:

Hana Khleif Ghani

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Dissertation Abstract:

The present study is a critical discourse analysis of the reproduction of three of these printed and social media controversies, namely the Danish Cartoon Controversy (2005), the US film Innocence of Muslims (2012), and the French Caricatures (2012) in selected British and American newspapers. The suggested terms 'Anti-Prophet Muhammad Media' and 'Anti-Prophet Muhammad Agenda' are used to entitle these three controversies which

deliberately aimed to insult the Prophet by presenting him disgraceful positions. The study aims at investigating the linguistic and ideological aspects of the reproduction of these three controversies in The Guardian, The Daily Mail, The New York Times, and USA Today. It also aims at identifying how ideology is represented in the selected newspapers.

For these aims, four hypotheses are set up : (1) Similarities and differences tend to come out in the reproduction of Anti-Prophet media in the language of the selected British and American newspapers, (2) Being allies in their wars and other political conflicts, the US and the UK's ideology is represented similarly in the selected British and American newspapers, (3) The selected three controversies tend to reveal different agenda and propaganda, and (4) Anti-Prophet Muhammad controversy is outstanding enough to be a valid substitute to other controversies like Anti-Communism and Anti-Semitism. Based on qualitative and quantitative procedures, data gathered from 24 articles from the selected newspapers will be analysed linguistically and then ideologically according to an eclectic model derived from Van Dijk's theory of news analysis in News Analysis (1988a) and News as Discourse (1988b), Van Dijk's theory of Ideological Square in Ideology: A Multidisciplinary Approach (1998), Fairclough's Intertextuality (2003) and Jowett & O'Donnell's Propaganda Model (2012).

The main conclusions of the present study are the following: (1) the four hypotheses of the present study have been validated; (2) The reproduction of the European controversies have shown that they were based upon an integration-agitation agenda and an explicit propaganda aiming at moving Islam from positive multiculturalism into negative civic integration, while the US controversy upon a public diplomacy agenda and an implicit propaganda; (3) Anti-Prophet Muhammad Media show that positive properties and coverage have been collocated with Western secularism (in Europe and the US) while negative depicting has deliberately been used to characterise the Prophet Muhammad, Muslim communities and Islamists; (4) The ideological squares have shown that the classification of Muslims, Islam, and the Prophet as the Other is valid; and (5) The critical discourse analysis has shown that Islam has been portrayed as a political ideology and is used for political or military advantage, with no single mentioning to any positive aspect. For example, both Islam and Christianity were treated in a relatively- biased manner; the majority of situations that Islam mentioned in were related to violence, conflict, civil crises, public killing, destruction of civil and political offices, and boycotting. Christianity, on the other hand, was associated with innocent killed people, calls for peace, and forms of civilized life.

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