

Transitivity Analysis of American and Iranian News Reports on the Murder of Qassem Suleimani and Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis: A Critical Discourse Analysis Perspective

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Abstract

This study investigates the representation of the murder of Qassem Suleimani and Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis in two selected news agencies, using Halliday's transitivity (2004) and Van Leeuwen's role allocation (2008) as the assigned models for this study. The two selected newspapers are American (New York Times, Washington Post and Los Angeles Times) and Iranian (Tehran Times, Kayhan, and Iran News). The study aims at scrutinizing micro strategies used in representing the event, unraveling hidden ideologies behind the representation, and how the main social actors (Suleimani and al-Muhandis) are represented, basing on ideology, and last, comparing the representation of the event between the two selected data in light of the model units. The results show that different manifestations of the event and the main social actors are advanced by the American and Iranian newspapers in response to ideology.

Keywords: *Critical discourse analysis, ideology, representations, media, and Transitivity.*

1.0 Theoretical Background

1.1. Introduction

Critical discourse analysis as an approach is imbued in the work of Roger Fowler and later sophisticated by Fairclough, who is designated as the most impressive and effectuated practitioner (Widdowson, 2004, p. 90). CDA outset as a network motivated by books and journals, especially Van Dijk's Journal entitled *Discourse and Society* (1990). Books such as *Language and Power* (Fairclough 1990), *Language, Power and Ideology* (Wodak 1989) have a noteworthy hand in the marking of CDA. Nevertheless, the Amsterdam colloquy is designated as the actual starting point for CDA (Wodak & Meyer, 2001, p. 4).

Under the umbrella CDA, as a term, no homogeneous method is proposed for discourse analysis, but instead different methods are adopted, following particular theoretical background. Nevertheless,

shared goals, imputations, and premises can be set out (Titscher et al., 2000, p. 144). For example, problem-orientation is a shared property by all its approaches with no concentration on certain linguistic items. However, what is obligatory in terms of linguistic experience is embedded in the choice of items that are relevant to particular research objectives. Rather, theories and methodology are reintegrated and selected in a way that is useful for grasping the social quandary under investigation (Wodak & Meyer, 2001, p. 29).

1.2. Ideology

'Ideology' as a concept, inherently, is prospered during the French Revolution, committed by Antoine Destutt de Tracy (1754- 1836), but publically, foremost utilized in 1796. 'Ideologie' for de Tracy implies "science of ideas" (Heywood, 2021, p. 3). His view is justified by the notion that ideas, our ideas, are not the product of God or nature. The social environment is responsible for generating ideas through our physical senses (cited in McLellan, 1986, p. 6) (Richardson, 2007, p. 32).

No compatible definitions of the term 'ideology' create the first problem. David McLellan (1995) describes that ideology is "the most elusive concept of the whole of the social sciences" (Heywood, 2021, p.2). Ideology, having a history, as a concept, according to Bo Strath, lies in the problem of its definition. This is because historical view involves many dimensions like asking who uses the concept of ideology, how its meaning is altering over time, and what meanings are advanced by each user of the concept (Petri, 2018, p. 4). Nevertheless, there are standard definitions for the concept of ideology. According to Althusser (as cited in 1971, p. 162), ideology is defined as a "representation of the imaginary relationship of individuals to their real conditions of existence." Locke defines ideology as an exhaustive story regarding some issues of human affairs, the ideal conduct of these aspects (2004, p.33).

1.3. Representation

The 'multi-functionality' of texts has been highlighted in 'functional' approaches to language. Rather than discussing functions, Fairclough prefers to discuss three primary forms or aspects of meaning (Fairclough, 2003, pp 26-7) for textual analysis, namely: actional, identificatory, and representational (Ibid, p. 225). The last is our concern since we have the representation of the event of killing Suleimani and al-Muhandis in news reports. There are choices in depicting social actors, just as there are in the representation of processes (Ibid, p. 146). Representation is, in all kinds of media; for example, press, a constructive practice (Fowler, 1991, p.26).

1.4. Media Discourse

Adequately, discerning social and political verities and issues cannot be captured from the first insight or experiment. Instead, such knowledge is off spring of exposure to texts, for instance, media that is highly workable and extensively studied in the sphere of CDA (Hart, 2010, p. 16). Rather, media, alongside its prominent power, gains a great deal of interest in many critical studies in plenty of fields, such as linguistics, pragmatics, and discourse studies (Van Dijk, 2008, p. 94). Media constitutes a particular type of discourse; media discourse. First and foremost, it is a broad term that comprises telecasting and printed media; that is, T.V., radio and newspaper, and by which reality of the world is represented (O'Keeffe, 2006, p.1). Newspaper, the selected data for this study, is

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the narrow sense of media, constituting a particular kind of public discourse (Van Dijk, 1988, p. 9). And since news is a type of discourse, language imposes the same structures on it (Fowler, 1991, p. 4).

1.5. Biography of Qassem Suleimani

On March 11, 1957, Qassem Suleimani was born in Qom city, Kerman province, Rabord village south-eastern Iran, as stated by the U.S. Department of state (Alfoneh, 2011, p. 2). From a pauper family, Suleimani is grown, working as a constructive; construction worker (Alfaris, 2020, para.2). His father, a small-time farmer, has debts to al Shah Ali Ridh around 9,000 rials, approximately 100\$. This sum was enough to lead Suleimani to leave his education and starts working by the age of 13 years in Kerman city (Soufan, 2012, p. 2).

Around 1979, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (shorten IRGC) is established, and once Suleimani teamed up. The story of the I.R. started with the establishment of Shi'ism as the state religion in 1501 (Arjomand, 1988, pp. 3-5). According to the Wall Street Journal, Suleimani spent his early adulthood in Iran's I.R., known as a war heroin Iran- Iraq war (1980-1988), having a role in raising him to prominence (DeCamber, 2020, para. 6). During that period, Saddam Hussein was trying to decimate the Islamic Republic arising. Suleimani has a role in the battlefields of this war (Shabani, 2020, p. 1).

His popularity is not restricted to Iran but also extended to the Middle East outside Iran. He is "Iran's viceroy for Iraq". (DeCamber, 2020, para.5). Fighting the Islamic State (ISIS) and U.S forces and ex-office (Iran's elite Quds Force), Suleimani is indicted. This is not only, but again accused of his militia dominance in the Middle East; for instance, in Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria (Givetash, 2020, p. 1).

1.6. Biography of Abu Mahdi Al -Muhandis

Jamal Jafaar Mohammed Ali Ibrahim was nicknamed Abu Mahdi al- Muhandis by his votaries in Iraq. In 1953, in Iraq- Basra was born to an Iraqi father and an Iranian mother (Beaumont, 2020, para.1,5). From Baghdad University of Technology, in 1977, he is graduated. Then, he attended compulsory military service. Later and after completing this service, he worked at the Basra Iron and Steel factory, a civil engineer from which he gains the nom duguerre "Muhandis" (Rudolf, 2020, p. 6).

1.7. The Event of Murdering Suleimani and Al -Muhandis

The Quds Force commandant, Qassem Suleimani and Kata'ab Hezbollah leader in Iraq; the second-in-command of the PMF, Abu Mahdi al- Muhandis, alongside other Lebanese officials in Hezbollah, were back from Syria towards Iraq on Syrian board airplanes (Chandran, 2020, para. 3). They landed in Baghdad International Airport (BIP) on Friday, January 3, 2020, at 1:00 a.m. As they have just headed out the port by two mini-buses forward the Green Zone, a U.S. airstrike is executed, striking separate Suleimani's convoy. In a more dramatic move, the assassination is accomplished (Frisch, 2020, p. 6).

As reported in the New York Times, the drone by which the strike is carried into effect is one of the most feared sorts in possession of the U.S. Air Force, namely the U.S. MQ-9 Reaper. It is "an armed, multi-mission, long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft that is used against dynamic execution targets", and due to its properties, MQ-9 is highly used for top-secret missions. The missile (air-to-ground missile AGM) used in operation is of kind Hellfire R9x 'Ninja', a variant missile with " a kinetic warhead with pop-out blades, intended to reduce collateral damage." Basing on these properties, such type is utilized in the execution of pinpoint operation anti terror leaders (Chandran, 2020, para. 5-7).

Donald Trump, the U.S. president at that time, on his order, the assassination of Suleimani is carried out, regarding such action as the bloodiest one in the face of Iran amounting to a war action (Wright, 2020, p. 2). Such a decision is premediated in advance, as Trump hinted at killing Suleimani on December 30, 2019) as he was playing golf with Senator Lindsey Graham (American politician), saying "I am thinking of hitting Suleimani" (Woodward, 2020, p. 190).

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Data Selection and Sampling

Two international news agencies, namely: the American newspapers and the Iranian newspapers that address the assassination of Suleimani and al- Muhandis are culled as data for analysis in this thesis. More precisely, three U.S. newspapers (Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, New York Times), conversely three Iranian news agencies (Tehran Time, Iran News, Kayhan). However, it is pretty sure that such selection, just like any data selection process, is not random but rather based on specific criteria. In the matter of media and due to the popularity of the event being a prominent world event, the picked newspapers must be in accordance with popularity, orientation and preponderant. Due to specific properties, media texts are favored in many studies, as such their accessibility, ease of access in proportion to other texts, which are much less accessible. Furthermore, it is worth noting that media is a social phenomenon. Since it is part of the world linking social life with the world, media is designated as more topical and socially relevant to our work (Stockes, 2003, p. 54). So, titulating data in terms of nationality, popularity and conservatism is the prime schema in their selection. Below, table (1) illustrates the number of news reports and year of publication for each news media.

Table (1): The Number of News Reports of each Media

Iranian	Year of publication	American	Year
The Iran News	1988	NYT	1851
Tehran Times	1979	WP	1877
Kayhan	1959	LAT	1881
Items Total	9	9	
Sample Total	18		

2.2. Model of Analysis: *Halliday's Transitivity (2004) & Van Leeuwen's Role Allocation (2008)*

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Transitivity is "the foundation of representation" by which the clause-grammatical component- is utilized for analyzing events and situations, and due to the facility of transitivity in analyzing one event differently, which receives much interest in analyzing newspaper, multi-options are available for us which are manifested in discourse. In turn, such choices are indicators of our points of view which are ideologically significant (Fowler, 1991, p. 71). The main model is Actor- process- Goal. Yet, since there is no one-to-one correspondence between grammatical and semantic labels, there will be a difference in terms of terminology to suit the meaning (Halliday, 2004, p. 200). Rather, to apply the concepts of process, participants and circumstance- semantic categories- we do not use them as they are but as they are suitable in the process being engaged in. Six types are identified within the category of process: material, mental, behavior, verbal, relational and existential. Each type will be illustrated with examples.

1. Material process

The main model (Actor-process-Goal) is applicable in this type as illustrated below in the example:

1. *"You replace the fruiting rod"* Actor- Material- goal (Ibid, p. 178-9).

2. Mental process

Again the main model is applicable with this type but with modification in the labels to be semantically more appropriate: for example: Actor (Senser) - process (mental) - Goal (Phenomenon).

2. *Children fears ghosts.* (Ibid, pp. 199-200).

3. Verbal Process

Simply, these are verbs of saying, for example:4. *'Kukul' is compassionate, replied the priest.*

(Sayer-verbal- target) (Ibid, p. 252)

4. Behavioral Process

Such type is typically human, indicating the psychological behavior, for instance dreaming, smiling, breathing, and coughing (Ibid, p. 248).

5. *She smiles.* (Behavior- behavioral).

5. Existential Process

Something happens or exists is represented in this type (Ibid, p. 255), for example:

6. *There was a storm.* (Event)

7. *On the wall, there hangs a picture.* (Exist: entity). (Ibid, p.259).

6. Relational Process

Four sub types are identified with this type:

A. Intensive: (Identifying and attributive)

8. *Sara is wise* (Identifying) (Identified+ intensive+ identifier).
 9. *Today is the feast.* (Attributive) (Carrier+ intensive+ attributed)
 B. **Possessive:** 10. *Peter has a piano.* (Possessor+ possessive+ possessed)
 C. **Circumstantial:** 11. *My story is about a poor shepherd boy.*
 (Carrier+ intensive+ circumstantial) (Ibid , p.216).

Role Allocation (Passive and Active))

In terms of representation and representational aspect, Leeuwen tackles the aspect of the role being pertained to social actors as agents (actor) or patient (goal). Active or passive roles are endowed to social actors. With activations, social actors are presented as the active dynamic force in an activity; and, conversely, passivation occurs where the actors are undergoing the activity, being a recipient of it (Van Leeuwen, 2008, pp 32-3). Transitivity is used to interpret the role that is assigned to each social actor. That is, Leeuwen's social category of role allocation is clarified the light of transitivity.

3.0 Data Analysis

3.1. Qualitative Analysis: Transitivity and Role Allocation (Textual level)

1. American Samples

Excerpt 1: "*The Pentagon says the decision to kill General Suleimani _ and with him the Iraqi commander who oversaw his country's Shiite militias _ was made because General Suleimani was planning more attacks on Americans.*" (Slavin, 2020, p.1)

n	Actor	Process	Goal	Circ.	Role
1	<i>The Pentagon</i> (sayer)	<i>Says</i> (Verbal)	" the decision to kill..." (Verbiage)	-----	Active
3	" <i>The Iraqi commander</i> " (Actor)	<i>oversaw</i> (Material)	" <i>His Iraqis Shiite militias</i> " (Affected participant)	-----	Active
4	<i>Suleimani</i> (Actor)	Was planning (material)	" <i>Attacks On Americans</i> " (goal, Affected participant)	-----	Active

Transitivity and its role are now incepted through this selected excerpt, which is verbal process personified, but by analyzing the verbiage itself, other processes exist. To start with the main one; verbal, in which '*the Pentagon*' is the active sayer, realized by the verb *says*, and its verbiage "*the decision to kill.....on Americans,*" As this type of transitivity process, the report assigns the verbal one to assert the message the Pentagon as active sayer intends to get across to the public, and which is, of course, a construing of ideological tendencies. To divide the Pentagon verbiage into clauses to be further analyzed in terms of transitivity.

Activation in this clause is manifested by the active role al-Muhandis has as actor of a material process. "*The Iraq commander; Muhandis*" is granted active role, as the doer of the actional

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material process "*oversaw*" to represent him in this negative role. "*His Iraqi's Shiite militias*" are the affected participant in this process.

Suleimani is also activated in a negative role and action, the actional process of "*was planning*" in which *Americans* are affected participants as victims receiving the outcome of this process. Again this linguistic process choice is highly based on the ideological stance; that is, Suleimani is activated to assert his crime, involving in planning attacks on the Americans, who are passivated as beneficialized negatively from Suleimani's action.

n	Goal	Process	Actor	Circ.	Role
1	"The decision to kill..." (Goal)	Was made (Material)	-----	-----	Passive

"The decision to kill ...was made..." is a passive role allocation as exemplified by the agent omission. As a process, it is material, as marked by the verb "*was made*" to affirm the action; why is done. Passivation in this example is realized by the classical way of subject omission. So, the passivated social actor is Trump, giving prominence to the action rather than its doer.

2. Iranian Samples

Excerpt 2 "*Millions of Iranians on Monday packed the streets of Tehran to pay homage to the Middle East's most prominent anti-terror commander General Qassem Suleimani who was assassinated on U.S. President Donald Trump's order Friday morning.*" ("Calls for revenge..." 2020, p.1)

n	Actor	Process	Goal	Circ.	Role
1	Millions of Iranians (Actor)	packed (Material)	"to pay homage to the ME 's most ... Suleimani" (goal/affected participant)	"on Monday, the street of Tehran" (Time/place)	Active

The *crowd (millions of Iranian)* is activated, as active doer of the action of rallying in a material process verb *packed* to emphasize their action, highlighting their stance in conducting and attending Suleimani's procession "*in Tehran Monday;*" associated circumstances with this action.

n	Goal	Process	Actor	Circ.	Role
1	Who (Goal/Subjected)	Was assassinated (Material)	"on U.S. president ..." (Actor)	"Friday morning" (Time)	Passive

"Who was assassinated....." is passive form. In terms of transitivity, we have the material process verb *assassinated* with agentless, and *Suleimani* "*who*" is passive goal; subjected. The key role of ideology again is manifested in this linguistic choice in representing Suleimani in passive role as victim, and the doer of the action is Trump is activated to affirm his action, as he took this order of killing.

Excerpt 3 "*Shahid Suleimani is the international face of the resistance and all who have heart-felt connection to the resistance seek his blood revenge. -Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.*" (Weiler, 2020, p.1)

n	Actor	Process	Goal	Circ.	Role
1	<i>Shahid Suleimani</i> (Token)	<i>Is</i> (Relational: identifying)	" <i>the international face...</i> " (Value)	_____	Active
2	<i>All who</i> (Possessor)	<i>Have</i> (Relational: possessive)	" <i>Hear-connection...</i> " (Possessed)	-----	Active
3	_____ (Actor)	<i>Seek</i> (Material)	" <i>his blood revenge</i> " (Goal)	-----	Active
4	<i>Seyed Ali</i> (Sayer)	<i>Said</i> (Verbal)	" <i>Shahid Suleimani...</i> " (Verbiage)	-----	Active

The activated sayer is *Khamenei*, who is bestowed this active role and this type process to assert his proposition of threat, and that he is a person of trust and change. His verbiage is further analyzed into: first, *Suleimani* is the active token in a relational process in identifying mode by the value "*the international face.....*," motivated ideologically with positive representation of Suleimani, as expressing the sayer inner attitude towards Suleimani. Second, we have two processes for one actor, active one, dedicated by the Iranian "*all who have..... seek...*" who are possessors in possessive relation marked by the verb *have*, as possessing feeling of connection the resistance to actively again engage in a material process as noted by the verb *seek* where the goal is *revenge*.

3.2. Quantitative Analysis

A. Quantitative Analysis of Halliday's Transitivity in the Iranian Corpus

Halliday's transitivity concerning its process types is now analyzed quantitatively in table (2). As a total number of using these processes in the Iranian reports, we have (515) counts. In terms of rank, the material process is the highest one, and existential is the lowest. Then, we have verbal, mental, attributive, identifying, circumstantial, behavioral, and possessive successively. The material, as at the upmost, by its count (238), and percentage from this total use of transitivity processes is (55%); about half of the total. Such a count and percentage draws attention to the far distance in relation to the other processes and why this process, in specific, scores and has such a rank. Firstly, the event being actional, as there is a strike, operation, and killing, so the actional process is necessary for such a topic. Secondly, the reporter, in one way or another employs the material process for more than one purpose besides its linguistic justification. For instance, Suleimani is represented in actional roles highly recommended from the ideological response. In short, the importance of the action is interpreted by the use of the material process.

Verbal process type, by gaining the second rank is, of course, not randomly; a justification lies behind this rank, scoring (120) (23.3%). Being the prominent event in the world at that time (2020),

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and the socials being killed are not ordinary figures, reaction, argumentation, threaten, warning, critics and viewpoints are conducted for this regard. So, the verbal process role is justified because the reporters tend to assert their argumentation by relying on authoritarians' verbiage. Instead, as a support to the reports' topic, the verbal process is involved, shedding light on the content of the sayer, having a direct effect on the reader.

Not only the verbiage of the sayer is dependent on the representing news reports, but the reporter also makes reliance on the minds of others, their ideas and thinking regarding the event of the killing. This is achieved by the mental process, reflecting how certain social actors think about the event. This is by itself controlled by ideology, translating ideology through this linguistic choice. It scores (37) (7.2%).

Relational process type, along with its four types, scores a good rank from the total, but only the first two modes: attributive and identifying, have considerable counts, scoring (28) (4.5%) and (19) (3.7%), respectively. The last two types, possessive and circumstantial, score (5) (1%) and (10) (1.9%) constitutively. Comparing these four types shows that the first pair is much used than the second pair. As a justification, describing the event or the main axis of the study; Suleimani and al-Muhandis, these processes, attributive and identifying, again have a salient role in interpreting the ideological imprint on discourse patterns by (un)reversible entities, attribute and value. The less be used bear no prominence that to be mentioned and justified, and for such both score lowest rank.

The last two process, namely: behavioral and existential are also have a low score among the other process types, scoring (9) (1.7%) and (4) (0.8%), respectively. Being the lowest is justified because these two processes are much used in a conversational context. These results are tabulated in table (2).

Table (2): *Transitivity and its process types in the Iranian corpus*

Process Type		count	%
Material		238	55
Verbal		120	23.3
Mental		37	7.2
Relational	Attribute	28	5.4
	Identifying	19	3.7
	Circumstantial	10	1.9
	Possessive	5	1
Behavioral		9	1.7
Existential		4	0.8

Total	515	100%
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A. Quantitative Analysis of Halliday's Transitivity in the American Corpus

Table (3) produces the counts and percentages of the process types that are applied in the American reports as a quantitative analysis of Halliday's transitivity. Totally, (756) is the count of all the applied processes in the American reports. The material process is in the head, counting (374), its percentage from the total use is (49.5), about the half value of the total use of the rest fifth process types. The reason for this high frequency is justified by the reporter tendencies to highlight their action of killing Suleimani. This is, however, directs the reporter to make heavy reliance on the material process. The verbal process comes next, scoring (188) (24.9%). The attributive-relational process scores the third rate by the count (63) and percentage (8.3%). These three types of processes are set in descending order. The rest of the processes are analyzed exponentially, starting from the lowest. Circumstantial-relational process gains the last, and the lowest rank in scoring only (6) uses by the percentage (0.8%). The second-lowest rank is pertained to the behavioral process as having the count (7) and the percentage (0.9%). Then, we have the existential process type, as scored (11) (1.5%) from the total number. Finally, the possessive-relational process is counted by (19), and a percentage is (2.5%). Moreover, equally, the last two processes, mental and identifying- relational score the same count and percentage, (44) (5.8%). More details about these different ranks of the processes are justified in the qualitative comparison in the following section. Table (3) makes this clear.

Table (3): Halliday's Transitivity in the American Corpus

Process Type		count	%
Material		374	49.5
Verbal		188	24.9
Mental		44	5.8
Relational	Attribute	63	8.3
	Identifying	44	5.8
	Circumstantial	6	0.8
	Possessive	19	2.5
Behavioral		7	0.9
Existential		11	1.5
Total		756	

3.3. Comparison of Results

3.3.1. Quantitative Comparison

A. Analyzing Halliday's Transitivity; process types

Table (4) shows the statistical analysis of the process types in terms of counts, percentages, Chi-square value, and p-value. The total computed Chi-square value of transitivity is (45.7%) with a p-value (0.000), statistically significant. The high rank is occupied by the material process, as it scores the percentage (55%) in the Iranian sample and (49.5%) in the American one. To compare the two, applying the Chi-square test, the computed Chi-square value is (30) with p-value counted (0.000). So, the calculated value is lower than the computed one, and the standard p-value is higher than the p-value of the category. In a result, there is significance in stating a difference in the use of the material process in each of the assigned two data. Then, we have a verbal process in the second rank, as it records (24.9%) of the total use. Its calculated Chi-square is (15.01), being above the tabulated value (3.84), and its p-value is (0.000), being lesser than the level (0.05). Then, these values lead to verifying the alternative hypothesis, as there is a significant otherness between the American and the Iranian samples in terms of material process. By these two process analysis, the null hypothesis is rejected. The attributive and identifying modes of relation process have a salient role in setting a difference between the two news agencies, being significant. Attributive-relational process has the computed Chi-square value (13.46) with p-value (0.000). Conversely, the identifying mode has (9.92) (0.002), as computed Chi-square and p-value consecutively. In the two cases, the computed value is higher than the tabulated value. The p-value is lesser than the level (0.05). This supports the introductory justification for these processes' significance.

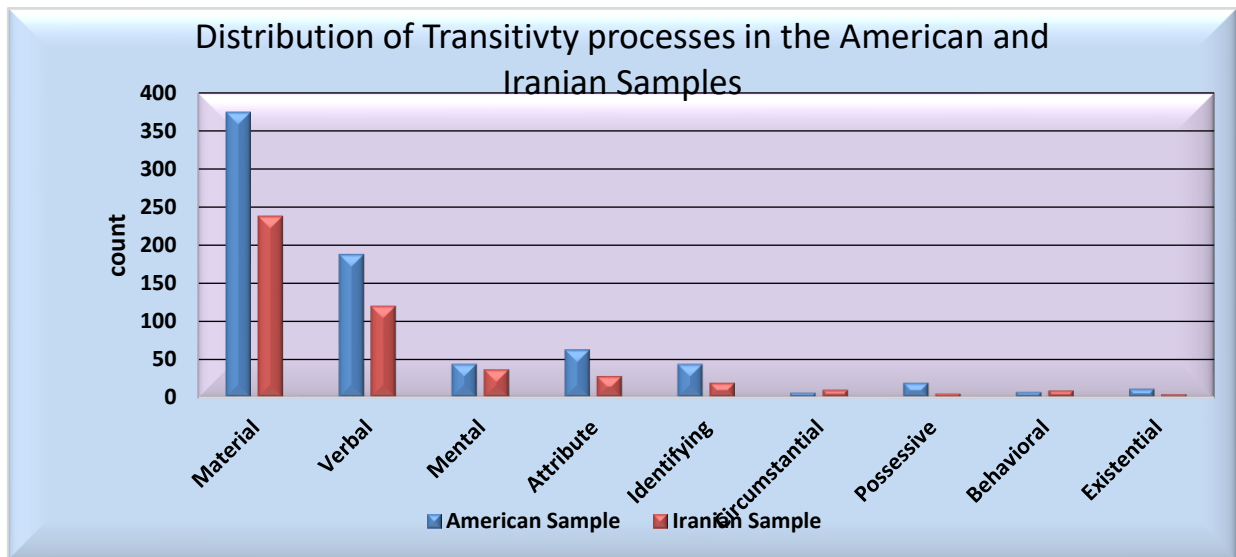
Then, there is a verifying for the null hypothesis. There is no difference between the American and Iranian samples in each of the following processes: mental, possessive-relational, circumstantial-relation, existential, and behavioral. To take each one, firstly, the computed Chi-square of the mental process is (0.61) and p-value (0.44). Then, we have (1.0) (0.32) values of the computed Chi-square, respectively. These values are (0.25) (0.62), computed and p-values for behavioral. Last, the existential process' calculated computed value is (3.27) with a p-value (0.07). All these values of the processes score a rate low than the tabulated value (3.84) and the p-value lesser than the standard level of significance (0.05). This, then, clarifies that the result of analysis of all these processes is insignificant in stating a difference between the selected data. Further, this is regarded as a similarity in using these particular process types. Tabulated in the following table (4), and figurate in figure (2), the result of the quantitative analysis of Halliday's transitivity:

Table (4): Chi-square Test of Transitivity's Processes

Process Type	Iranian Sample		American Sample		Chi-sq	p. value
	count	%	count	%		
Material	238	55	374	49.5	30.22	0.000
Verbal	120	23.3	188	24.9	15.01	0.000

	Mental	37	7.2	44	5.8	0.61	0.44
Relational	Attribute	28	5.4	63	8.3	13.46	0.000
	Identifying	19	3.7	44	5.8	9.92	0.002
	Circumstantial	10	1.9	6	0.8	1.0	0.32
	Possessive	5	1	19	2.5	8.17	0.004
	Behavioral	9	1.7	7	0.9	0.25	0.62
	Existential	4	0.8	11	1.5	3.27	0.07
	Total	515		756		45.7	0.000

Figure (1): Distribution of Transitivity Processes



4.0. Conclusions

The event of killing Suleimani and al-Muhandis in the American and Iranian reports is represented by some categories of the assigned model of the thesis. Among the salient ones are activation, material process type, and verbal process. Through the use of which, the reporters get their conceptualization of the event and the murderer across. More to the point, American and Iranian reporters employ activation, as a linguistic choice, in representing the event, and this in turn attains our use of language in aim of reflecting social facts and events. With the same outcome concerning the media workers' use of certain linguistic choices, another conclusion is subsumed. Some of these linguistic choices (activation, material process) are appealed to than the others. This is, of course, not randomly, but basically set, how? To take Leeuwen's social category, for example role allocation, justifying this outcome in its light, we elucidate that activation is much used than passivation in the two samples. Still with the same category, but in light of its Halliday's transitivity interpretation, material and verbal processes in toppling among others process types. Conversely, possessive-relational and behavioral processes get the minimum rate.

The event and the main axis of it, the social actors; Suleimani and al-Muhandis are represented differently in the two samples. Discrepancies in terms of representing those social actors whether in doings or image are prevailed in the American and Iranian samples. By language as a tactic, this

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discrepancy is achieved. More precisely, through the specified linguistic choices of the model of the study, Activation and passivation both are employed for the different representation of Suleimani and al-Muhandis.

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