صورة الدولة الإسلامية في العراق وسوريا (داعش) في الصحافة الإلكترونية الأمريكية والبريطانية: تحليل خطاب نقدي مدوني

بحث مقدم من الباحثة

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(ملخص)

تجمع هذه الدراسة بين أداة تحليل الخطاب النقدي وتحليل المتن اللغوي لاستكشاف صورة الدولة الإسلامية في العراق وسوريا (داعش) في الصحافة الإلكترونية الأمريكية والبريطانية. يقوم الباحث بدراسة طريقة العرض من خلال تطبيق برنامج AntConc للتحليل اللغوي للنصوص واختيار المفردات. يتمثل المصدر الرئيسي للدراسة الحالية في قسم تقارير الأخبار العالمية بالصحف. جُمِعت البيانات في تواريخ مختلفة بشكل عشوائي لمعرفة طريقة عرض العالم الغربي لداعش. جُمِعت الأخبار من "الإندبندنت" و "الجارديان" وهي صحف بريطانية بالإضافة إلى صحيفة "نيويورك تايمز" وصحيفة "واشنطن بوست" وهي صحف أمريكية. تتكون البيانات من الأخبار العالمية على شبكة الإنترنت التي يتم نشرها على المواقع الرسمية لصحيفة الإندبندنت والجارديان بالإضافة إلى نيويورك تايمز وصحيفة واشنطن بوست. يحلل موضوع البحث 40 تقريرًا إخباريًا، 7 مقالات منها نقلت عن صحيفة نيويورك تايمز و9 مقالات نقلت عن صحيفة واشنطن بوست و10 مقالات من صحيفة الجارديان و14 مقالًا من صحيفة الإندبندنت، حيث ينبغي أن تكون متساوية في عدد الكلمات. تم دراسة المقالات بكل من الصحف الإلكترونية المختارة بداية من يونيو 2014 وحتى أكتوبر 2014، حيث بدأت داعش في هذه الفترة بتنفيذ أعمال تجذب انتباه وسائل الإعلام. يبدأ الباحث من

خلال حفظ المقالات من المواقع الإلكترونية لتلك الصحف، ثم يتم استخدام أداة المتن اللغوي، وينتهي بتطبيق أداة تحليل الخطاب النقدي متمثلة في اختيار المفردات.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تحليل الخطاب النقدى – تحليل المتن اللغوى – اختيار المفردات

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The Representation of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in American and British Electronic Newspapers: A Corpus-Based Critical Discourse Analysis

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(Summary)

The synergy between Critical Discourse Analysis tool and Corpus Linguistic analysis are applied in this study to explore the representation of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in American and British electronic newspapers. The researcher investigates the representation by applying lexical choice and AntConc software. The main source of the present study is taken from online newspapers, the section of world news stories. The data is collected from various dates randomly to find out the representation of the West towards ISIS. The news is collected from "The Independent" and "The Guardian" which are British online newspapers and "The New York Times", and "The Washington Post" which are American online newspapers. The data consists of online world news stories published on the official websites of "The New York Times", "The Washington Post", "The Guardian" and "The Independent". The thesis analyzes forty news stories; 7 articles from The New York Times, 9 articles from The Washington Post, 10 articles from The Guardian and 14 articles from The Independent as they should be

approximately equal in number of word tokens. Each of the chosen online newspapers is from June 2014 to October 2014 as in this period ISIS starts to perform actions that grab the attention of media. The researcher starts by saving the articles from the websites of these newspapers, then a corpus linguistic tool is used. Finally, the researcher applies a CDA tool which is lexical choices.

Keywords:

Critical Discourse Analysis, Corpus Linguistic, lexical choice.

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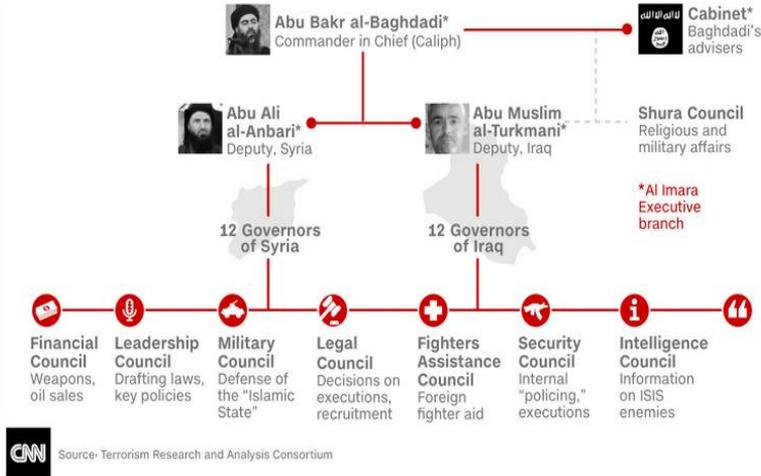
1. Introduction

1.1 Context of the study

After the invasion of USA to Iraq in 2003, the situation deteriorated in the country as AL-Qaeda started its terrorist actions. In 2004, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) separated from AL-Qaeda and was constituted by Abo Mosab El Zarqany. In "Mobašer Min Al Aalam": "Live from the Capital", a program released on ONTV channel, states that the first leader of ISIS is Abo Bakr Al Baghdadi who was chosen in 2013. The program also announced that there were many countries which support ISIS. Moreover, ISIS' aim is to establish an Islamic State including Al-Anbar, Al-Bokmal, and other cities in Iraq and the Levant. In addition, ISIS wants to revive the Islamic reign. Their weapons are heavy machine guns, anti-aircraft weapons, and AK-50 caliber sniper   (Mobašer Min Al Aalam, 2014). ISIS trains those who volunteer to join it.

(Fig.1)

CNN illustrates ISIS in a photo done by Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium. It has a caliph who is Abu Bakr AlBaghdadi, a cabinet and shura Council. Moreover, it has two deputies: one in Syria, Abu Ali AlAnbari and one in Iraq, Abu Muslim al-Turkmani. Accordingly, each of them oversees 12 governments. These governments have various councils to supervise the situation (ISIS: Everything you need to know about the group, 2015). Paltridge (2006) believes that a group in a community must have mutual targets, ways of communication, and methods for providing information exchange between its members. There must be specific genres in this community. In addition, this community must have its peculiar choice of words, vocabulary, and expertise in their association.

ISIS has committed terrorist actions in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon recently. Their atrocities increase as they kill people and chop their heads under the name of Islam. It has its own ideology, rules, and it spreads its ideology by its terrorist actions. According to BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), ISIS spreads terror and

frightens the world because of its barbaric ideology which includes killing, kidnapping and raping, as well as executions of soldiers and journalists (What is Islamic State?, 2015).

1.2 Objectives of the Study:

Thornborrow figures out "[t]he media … have come to be taken for granted as an integral part of most of people's life" (1999, p.51). Nobody can live without internet as it spreads like wildfire recently. Therefore, the aim of this study is to examine how ISIS is represented in foreign electronic newspapers: "The New York Times", "The Washington Post", "The Guardian" and "The Independent". In addition, a Critical Discourse Analysis tool and corpus linguistic analyses are applied to show the representation of ISIS in these newspapers in order to reflect upon the perspective of the newspapers.

1.3 Research Questions:

1-How is ISIS represented in foreign electronic
newspapers?
2-In what way do the lexical choices reflect the ideology of the
Western newspapers?
4-How does corpus analysis help in CDA studies?

2. Methodology
2.1 Data and data Collection

The main source of the present study is taken from online newspapers, the section of world news stories. The news is collected randomly from different dates to find out the representation of the West towards ISIS. The data is collected from "The Independent" and "The Guardian" which are British online newspapers and "The New York Times", and "The Washington Post" which are American online newspapers. The data consists of online world news stories published on the official websites of "The New York Times", "The Washington Post", "The Guardian" and "The Independent". The thesis analyzes forty news stories; 7 articles from The New York

Times, 9 articles from The Washington Post, 10 articles from The Guardian and 14 articles from The Independent as they should be approximately equal in number of word tokens. Each of the chosen online newspapers is from June 2014 to October 2014 as in this period ISIS starts to perform actions that grab the attention of media. The researcher chooses "The New York Times" and "The Washington Post" as they are ranked from 2014 top media outlets (2014 Top Media Outlets, 2014). Besides, the researcher chooses The Guardian" and "The Independent" as they are ranked from the leading national newspapers in the UK (Top national newspapers ranked by reach UK 2014 | statistic, 2014).

2.2 Procedures

In the present study, the researcher goes through three main procedures. First, the researcher starts by saving the articles from the websites of these newspapers, then a corpus linguistic tool is used. Finally, the researcher applies a CDA tool which is lexical choices.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The present study aims at exploring the way that Western online newspapers represent ISIS. The tool of CDA which is applied is lexical choices. The researcher follows van Dijk's approach (2000) to answer research questions.

2.4 CDA Tool

The main scope of the present study is to explore the representation of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the Western online newspapers. Thus, a CDA tool lexical choice is chosen to reflect the ideology of these Western online newspapers.
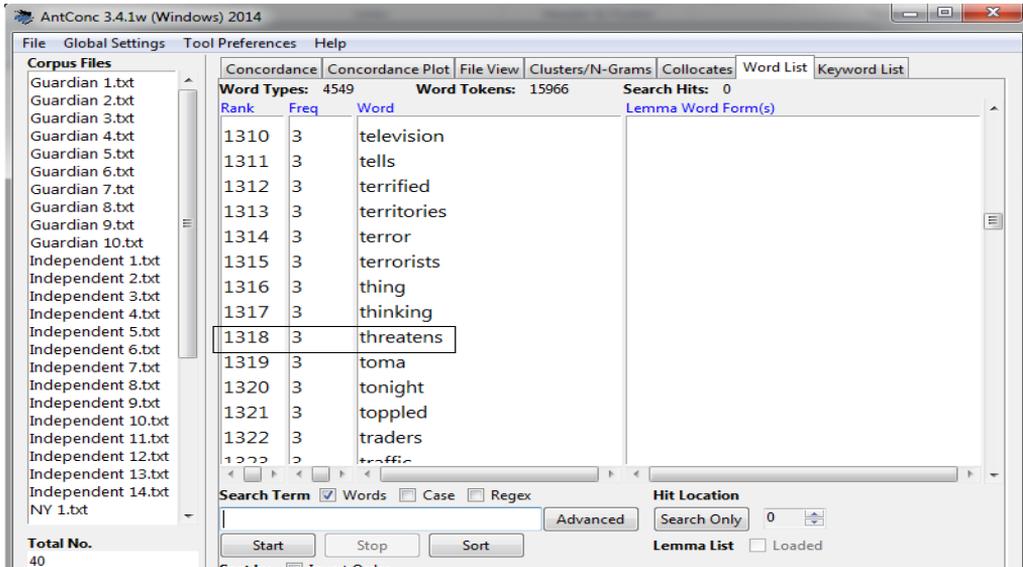
2.4.1 Lexical Choices

van Dijk believes that lexical choices are crucial to analyze news as they register the type of the action. In other words, lexical choices can portray someone or a group as a victim or as responsible for performing an action; for instance, the Eastern European press always presents Israelis as 'aggressors' or 'warmonger' (1988, P.108). He finds out that using different lexical choices expresses ideology in discourse. A writer uses various lexical choices to classify things, people, actions or events. Moreover, it presents attitudes and ideologies of people and groups. He mentions that "lexical analysis is the most obvious component in ideological discourse analysis. Simply spelling out all implications of lexical choices being used in a specific discourse and context" (1998, p.205).

2.5 AntConc software:

AntConc Software is "A freeware concordance program for Windows, Macintosh OS X, and Linux." (Software, 2014). A concordance lists words to point out how they are presented in a context (AntConc, 2014).The researcher applies this software on the lexical choices to clarify how ISIS is represented in these Western electronic newspapers. Furthermore, the lexical choice "threat" is repeated many times in the word list in various forms like "threat, threatens, threatened and threatening"; hence, the researcher uses the concordance to show all of them in order.
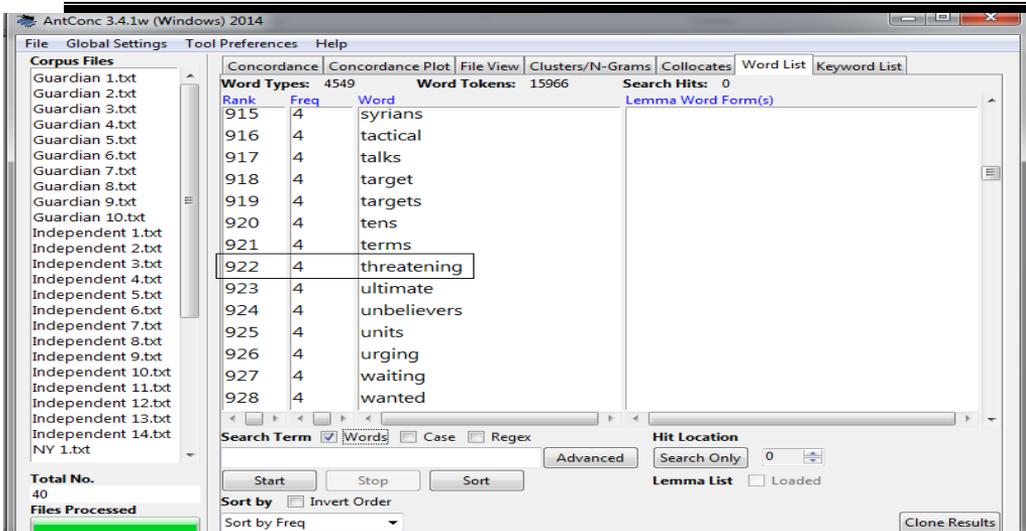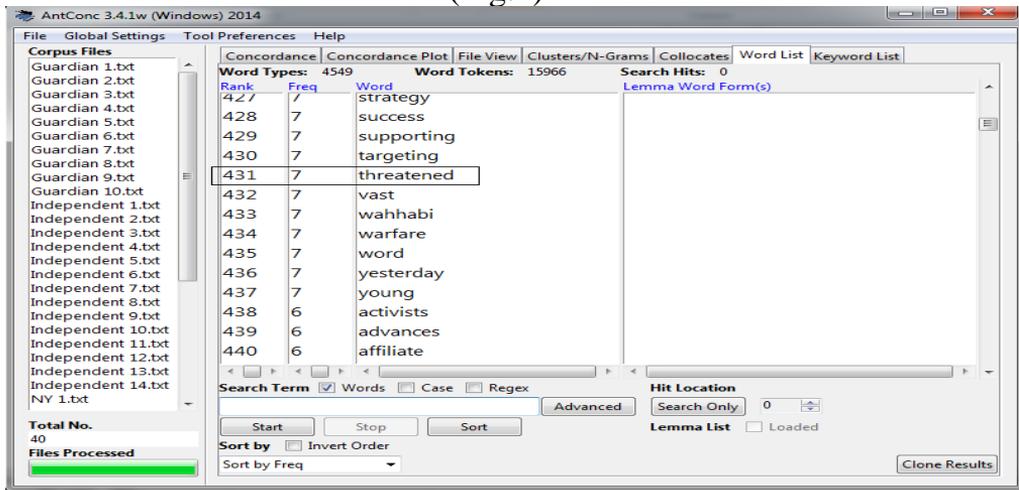
(Fig.2)

(Fig.3)

(Fig.4)

3. Literature review

3.1 Critical Discourse Analysis: Overview and definition

In the early 1990s, many scholars of CDA started to appear. Afterwards, they discussed methods and theories of CDA in a meeting at the University of Amesterdam. Those scholars are

Teun van Dijk, Norman Fairclough, Gunther Kress, Theo Van Leeuwen and Ruth Wodak. (Wodak & Myer, 2001, p.4).

Fairclough (2013) believes that CDA has three features as it is relational, dialectical, and transdisciplinary. It is relational as it does not shed light on communities and individuals. However, it deals with social relations which are complicated because it is "relations between relations", for instance relations between communicative events like conversations and newspapers. It is dialectical as there are dialectical relations between things because they are different from each others, for example, the relation between power and discourse. Further exploration, the relation between the power of people who have authority and the people who do not have authority is rational. Thus, social processes include various elements which are 'power' and 'discourse'. Moreover, it is an interdisciplinary way of analyzing the text. Fairclough prefers to describe it as a 'transdisciplinary for' which means that the dialogue in the text is considered as a source of theoretical and methodological developments within disciplines and frameworks. He mentions that the main idea of 'texts' is to present themselves to the reader. To establish an entity to a research topic, the researcher leads it to various points like coherent and research questions. Hence, the body of the research is constructed in a transdisciplinary way according to the categories and relations between theories of discourse (pp.4-5).

There are many definitions of CDA but van Dijk defines it as:

> Critical Discourse analysis is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance and inequality are enacted, reproduced and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context. (2000, p.1)

3.2 Discourse and Power

There are two kinds of relationships between power and discourse; power in discourse and power behind discourse. Power in discourse happens when the speaker performs the action of power as in face to face interaction. It takes place in spoken discourse. In addition, it occurs in "cross cultural" discourse where participants have various ethnic identities and the "hidden power" of the mass media. Power behind discourse shows how relations of power construct orders of discourse (Fairclough, 1989, p.43). Nevertheless, mass-media discourse includes power relations; it is not clear in it what makes media attractive. In other words, it enacts hidden power relations. In media discourse especially in writing, there is an obvious separation between producer and interpreters. Actually, media discourse is prepared for mass audience who are anonymous to the producer. It sends an ideal subject to the viewer, listener or reader who has to cope with the ideal subject (Fairclough, 1989, p.49)

3.3 Discourse and Ideology

van Dijk (2000) defines ideologies as "… the fundamental beliefs of a group and its members." (p.7). According to several approaches, ideologies are social by their multiple social conditions and functions. On the social level, ideologies reflect beliefs of groups which are gained, used and varied according to different social situations, the interest of the groups and relations between groups in complex societies (van Dijk, 1998, p.135).

Critical Discourse analysts agree that specific groups with social power get benefits from ideologies. Moreover, events, practices, and behaviors are legitimate and common-sense. Social power belongs to those who have connection to social resources like education, knowledge, and wealth. Contrary to what is

mentioned, analysts believe that power and dominance are obtained through various situations not from imposing, from above, on others. For example, if people consider dominance as legitimate, power will be 'jointly produced'. Ideologies present how people or groups interpret the world around them (Mayer, 2008, p.11).

3.3.1 Discrimination in Discourse

Kamali (2009) states that Wodak and van Dijk apply a comparative, qualitative, and discourse analytical perspective in cross-national research in order to clarify the long mechanisms of xenophobia and racism. In other words, this is to explore how different groups with various political views are constructed in countries "and recontextualise various arguments in favor of racist and xenophobic actions" (p.64).

3.4 Approaches
3.4.1 Socio-Cognitive Approach

van Dijk believes that a Socio-Cognitive approach needs to illustrate social cognition for instance, the beliefs or representations in society which people share among their community. There are various forms of social representations like knowledge, attitudes, values, norms and ideologies. Therefore, social representations have a great role in constructing personality. Besides, he pinpoints that the objective of this approach is to analyze certain discourses within social framework, for example, to express or persuade, indirectly, social representations through discourse (2009, p.78). van Dijk (2000) introduces two models: mental model and context model. In mental model, he states that there is a difference between social memory and personal memory. The personal memory is called "episodic" as it is a representation

of the episodes in people's experience. Models are personal and subjective because it presents the events as the individual interpret. Actually models include more information than discourses, for example, one can kill people with guns. This information is featured by models. Accordingly, presupposition can be used as the information may be left implicitly (p.21). On the contrary, van Dijk acknowledges that context models are models that represent the present event that includes participants. They are dynamic as it is developed by uttering words or writing them. They follow participants' intentions and objectives (2000, pp26-27). However attitudes and ideologies play a great role in establishing personal opinions; context models create personal opinions not attitudes or ideologies. For example, a feminist may adopt a personal opinion which contradicts with a feminist ideology. This may be a result of personal experiences or situation (van Dik, 2009, p.81).

van Dijk (2008) states that models may represent ongoing or face-to-face interactions at the micro level. On the contrary, they may represent social and historical situations at the macro level (p.17). For example, media can present racism within the dimensions of politics, culture and society at the macro-level with the interactions and cognition forms of news making at the micro-level (van Dijk, 1991, p.23).

van Dijk focuses on what he calls "ideological square" of positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation. He figures out that positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation is a main feature of group conflict and its interaction with other groups. Furthermore, it presents the way groups talk about themselves and others which follow the strategy of "say positive things about Us and say negative things about Them" and "Do not say negative things about Us and do not say positive things about Them". He amends the previous four procedures as:

- Emphasize positive things about Us.

- Emphasize negative things about Them.
- De-emphasize negative things about Us.
- De-emphasize positive things about Them. (2000, p.44)

3.5 Self and Other presentation

Children at school, learn that "we" (white, Europeans) are developed, smart and stylish unlike the others who live in the third world. The old ideology of racism, which is white superiority, is transferred to children. Moreover, there are many indirect forms that this superiority is transmitted to children. In addition to the form of positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation, many countries, people and groups have some features that are considered as positive or negative (van Dijk, 2005, p.6).

3.6 Corpus Linguistics

McEnery and Wilson (1996) state that Corpus Linguistics is a methodology that can be used in any field of linguistics. It defines any branch of linguistics and assists the linguist to know the difference between methodological approaches in linguistics (p.2). It is a study that sheds light on the methods of studying language like concordance. It allows researchers to discover the way that corpus linguistics developed and to use the corpora properly. It is a "heterogeneous field". In other words, there are various approaches inside corpus linguistics to use the language data. Furthermore, there are characteristics to differentiate between forms of studies in corpus linguistics:

- Mode of communication;
- Corpus based versus corpus-driven linguistics;
- Data collection regime;
- The use of annotated versus unannotated corpora;
- Total accountability versus data selection;
- Multilingual versus monolingual corpora. (Hardie & McEnery, 2012, pp.1-3)

Gries (2009) states that there is a difference between general corpora and specific corpora. On the one hand, general corpora are representative and show the balance in language. On the other hand, specific corpora are limited as it deals with specific variety, register, and genre and so on (p.9).

3.6.1 Frequency list

Gries (2009) mentions that frequency list is the main tool in corpus-linguistics. It presents two column tables with all words that take place in the corpus in one column and the frequency where they exist in the other column, to investigate how often words occur in a corpus. Besides, there is a difference between word type and word token. For example, " the word and the phrase" includes five (word) tokens " "the", "word", "and" "the" ,and "phrase"" one which occurs twice. In this respect, frequency list lists the types in one column and their token frequencies in the other (p.12).

3.6.2 Lexical co-occurrence collocations

Gries (2009) acknowledges that there are three various types of co-occurrence phenomena that corpus linguistics are interested in:

1- Collocation: The co-occurrence of word form like 'different from' vs. 'different to' vs. 'different than' and the problem issued by this different forms or expressions like 'kith and kin' or 'by and large'.

2- Colligation: The co-occurrence of grammatical phenomena in word forms like part-of-speech categories, grammatical relations, or definitions like the co-occurrence of consequence as a complement with an indefinite article (but not an adverbial).

3- Grammar patterns or collostructions: words that occur with a morph syntactic patterns. (p.14)

3.6.3 Concordance

O'Keeffe (2006) remarks that concordance is a tool in corpus software that examines the qualitative data. It aims at finding the

occurrence of a particular word or phrase. Searching for a word or phrase is called node. Moreover, the node word shows the concordance lines; thus the analyst can search for the lexical choice up and down (p.52). Concordance list is shown in the following figure (p.52):

(Fig.5)

Figure 3.6 Concordance lines of *now* using the *Liveline* corpus

```
the best bye bye.          NEW CALL Now yesterday ah one of our callers re
        Welcome back to the programme. Now recently am at the opening of the
           s so I've it was experience so. Now ah before I go to am the next pers
u Marian.          And likewise indeed. Now Jim.          Bye bye.          Good
        Thank you          NEW CALL Now we go on from weighty matters of s
o us.          IMMEDIATE NEW CALL Now Noel good afternoon to you.
        Okay bye bye.          NEW CALL Now Ciaran good afternoon to you. Hel
        you. Go=go=goodbye Josephine. Now Jim.          Good afternoon Marian
           (run on into) NEW CALL Now Matt. Good afternoon to you.
                    NEW CALL Now Mary good afternoon to you.
        NEW CALL immediate follow on Now Brian good afternoon to you.
That was Nathalie Imbruglia and *Torn*. Now Emmet good afternoon to you.
        That's REM *Losing my Religion*. Now Geraldine good afternoon to you.
        Welcome back to the programme. Now Richard good afternoon to you.
oster and Allan and a *Bunch of Thyme*. Now Geraldine good afternoon.
n this village.          NEW CALLER Now Tess hello there.          Hello Ma
        n to you.          Hello Marian. Now we were talking yesterday ah about
d be the the solution to her problem''. Now Catherine you didn't like that did
bye bye bye bye.          NEW CALLER Now Josephine you want to reassure Bre
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3.7 Media
Talbot defines media discourse as

> [A]multidisciplinary field. In addition to extension interest in media and cultural studies, it is the subject of scrutiny in linguistics - particularly conversation analysis, critical discourse analysis, ethnography of communication, linguistic, anthropology , pragmatics and sociolinguistics and also in cultural geography, psychology, sociology and tourism studies (2007, p.3).

Media are a way of communication. They usually include the press, radio, and television. Lately, Media consider World Wide Web as part of this phenomenon. Many people acquire information about the world from the media. Furthermore, media have many functions towards the receivers. They provide them with information. In addition, they entertain and educate them. Thus, Media are powerful as they choose news that people will listen to and the way that the news is going to be told. They become part of many people's life. However, this does not mean that the receivers are puppets who are controlled by media (Thornborrow, 1999, pp.50-51).

Macdonald (2003) figures out that media have four various roles dealing with discourse and critical thinking:
1- The media reflect reality
2- The media represent reality
3- The media operate discursively
4- The media offer simulations

She mentions that representation in media is a debatable notion as it regards the world of external reality and the world of textual representation as separated entities. In other words, the real world exists in material form unlike its presentation. According to postmodern thinking, simulation is the link between media or cultural texts and reality, for instance, the representation of Scottish history in *Braveheart* (1995) by Mil Gibson and the representation of Muhammed Ali's life in *Ali* (2001) (pp. 12-14). Macdonald pinpoints that realities are molded discursively. It is hard to discuss the idea of abusing men by women or Muslims by Sikhs as victims may regard that the discourse of 'racism' block their experience. Hence, talking about discourse and its relation to the postmodern notion of simulation is a critical point as reality is unknowable (2003, p.16).
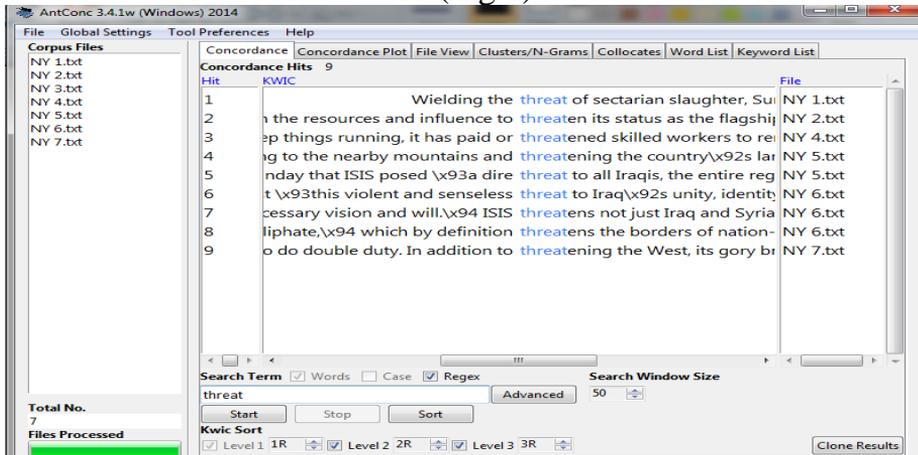
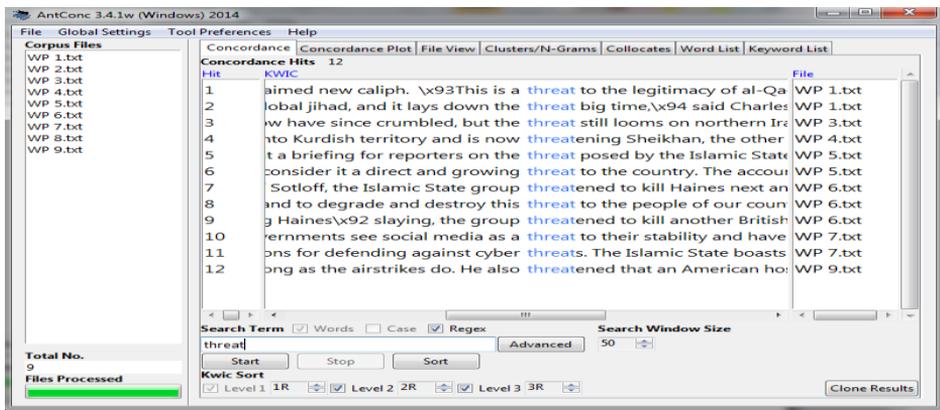# 4. Analysis

Lexical Choices:
New York Times:
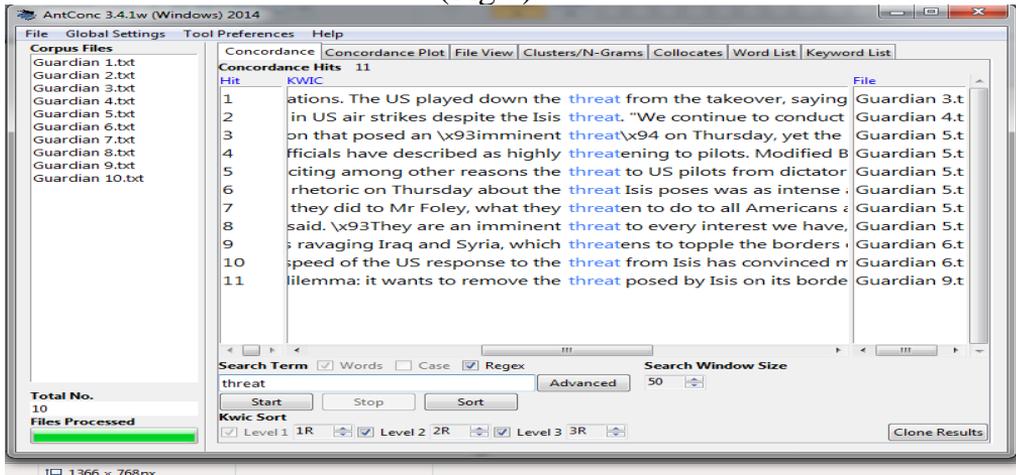
(Fig.6)

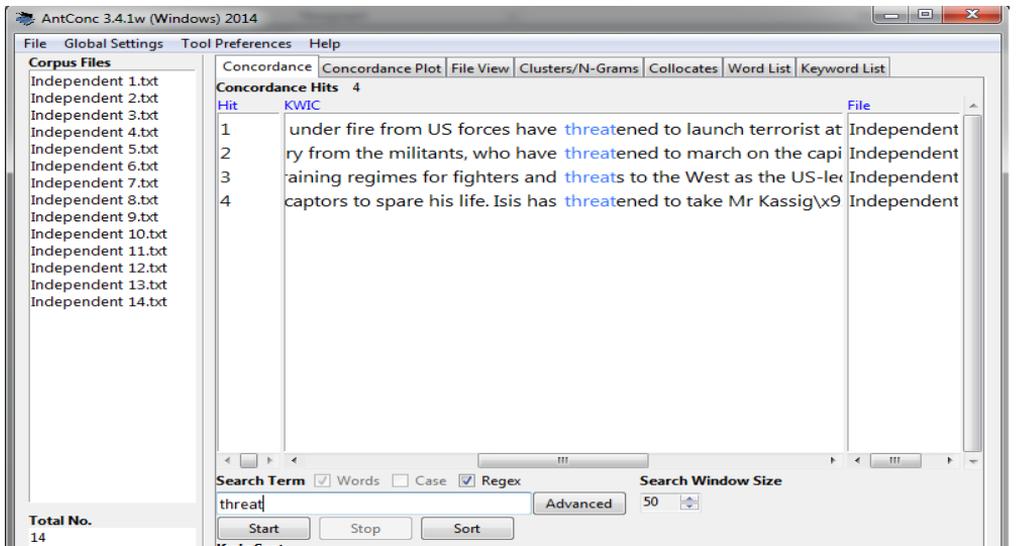## The Washington Post: (Fig.7)

The Guardian:

(Fig.8)

The Independent:

(Fig.9)

Threatening people's life:

The New York Times:

The lexical choice 'threat' in example number (1) in The New York Times is followed by "sectarian slaughter" which means that their threat is a bloody one. It performs terrorist massacres towards innocent people and it is not ashamed of what it is doing as it posts "grisly pictures of a mass execution". The lexical choice "threat" is followed by negative words which emphasize their terrorist actions. In other words, it threatens sectarian slaughter, massacres hundreds of captive Shiite members, posts grisly pictures of a mass execution, and warns of more killing to come.

The Washington Post:

ISIS is represented negatively because of its terrorist actions. In number (4), The Islamic State is threatening another area. In addition, there are citizens who live there; thus, they are threatening the land and the citizens, which is absolute terrorism. What they do is frightening people and spreading terror not Islam. In example number (7) in The Washington Post it is obvious that in spite of killing Sotloff, ISIS "threatened" to kill Haines. It is not ashamed of its actions. It is proud of its cruel action "the beheading of Sotloff" as it shows this on camera. Lexical choices like "beheading, threatened, kill, and showed" shed light on its barbarous action. In number (9), ISIS threatens to kill another British captive. The lexical choice "threat" is followed by the lexical choice "kill" which proves its gruesome actions. It threatens to kill which reflects its disgraceful ideology. In example number (12), one of the members of ISIS threatens to kill another American hostage. It kills hostages with no mercy. It is presented negatively as the lexical choices are negative ones "beheadings", " warns "," gruesome attacks", and " airstrikes". Besides, the masked militant uses a negative phrase

"strike the neck of your people". It is presented negatively by the West.

The Guardian:

The Guardian presents in example number (4) that the US is presented positively as it sends its forces to defend Syria from terrorism and to search for hostages and save them. What the pilots do is dangerous as this imposes a threat to their lives. They face danger to protect and save others. Choosing the lexical choice "highly" besides "threatening" asserts the positive presentation of the American pilots.

The Independent:

In example (4), the verb "threatened" is a sign for taking Mr Kassig's life. ISIS is threatening the west by taking one of the hostages' life as they launch air strikes against them.

Findings:

It is obvious that the threat in the previous examples is a threat of killing. The four newspapers tackle the idea of killing through the lexical choice 'threat'. ISIS kills people and threatens those who are still alive. ISIS threatens people by performing a 'sectarian slaughter' by propagating for its massacres. In addition, it threatens to kill its hostages. Not only it threatens to kill hostages but also it threatens to kill pilots. Accordingly, its militants kill those who are not loyal to them. Owing to its actions, ISIS is presented negatively by "The New York Times", "The Washington Post" and "The Guardian". The newspapers present ISIS as a terrorist state which imposes a threat on people's life.

Threatening al-Qaeda:

The New York Times:

Although the Qaeda is considered as a terrorist group, ISIS is represented as a threat to the Qaeda status in example number (2) in The New York Times which proves that it is a barbaric state. In other words, ISIS' movements are violent, representing an extreme which imposes a threat.

The Washington Post:

Obviously, The Washington Post in example number (1) mentions that ISIS is a threat to "the legitimacy of al-Qaeda" which reflects its ideology of terror. In other words, al-Qaeda has a bloody history as it has committed several terrorist actions and once the writer mentions that ISIS "is a threat to the legitimacy of al-Qaeda", this is a negative presentation. ISIS is more dangerous than al-Qaeda. Lexical choices like "threat" and "war" prove the negative impact towards ISIS.

Findings:

The idea of losing power is obvious in the previous examples. The threat here is related to losing power. ISIS threatens al-Qaeda by losing its power as a terrorist group. ISIS is more violent than al-Qaeda. "The New York Times" and "The Washington Post" present ISIS negatively as it threatens workers to lose their jobs and threatens al-Qaeda for losing its legitimacy which asserts that ISIS is more barbaric than al-Qaeda.

Threatening countries and regions:

The New York Times:

It is obvious in example number (4) in The New York Times that ISIS is not only threatening people, but also threatening the country's largest dam. In other words, it spreads terror towards the whole country and the citizens. It threatens people, "fleeing" to the nearby mountains because of their "extremist" actions. By describing their existence as a "dire threat" in example number (5), ISIS is represented, using negative lexical choice. It poses a critical threat not only to all Iraqis, but also to the entire region and the international community owing to its violence against people. On the contrary, the United States represents itself positively as the State Department spokeswoman states that the USA seeks to "support" the Iraqi security forces and the Kurdish Pesh Merga in order to withstand against ISIS. To wrap up, ISIS is represented negatively as the writer describes those using lexical choices like "a dire threat" and the USA is represented positively by the lexical choice "support" to show that they support the Iraqi forces and the Kurdish Pesh Merga in order to fight terrorism. The USA again is represented in a positive way unlike ISIS in example number (6) which is represented in a negative way. On the one hand, the USA drafts a statement asking Iraqi communities to unite against ISIS as it is a terrorist group. On the other hand, ISIS is described as a "threat" to Iraq's unity, identity, and future. In addition, lexical choices like "violent and senseless" emphasize the idea that it is a terrorist group which performs terror and spreads threat to the whole country. As a result, positive self-presentation is crystal clear as the USA represents itself positively and ISIS is represented negatively by using negative lexical choices like "violent and senseless threat". In number (7), ISIS poses a threat not only to Iraq and Syria but also to other countries. It wants to enlarge its state which is a threat to the whole world. In number (8), ISIS seeks to establish a Sunni "caliphate" which is a threat to the borders of nation-states as it may

spread into the neighbor states. In number (9), ISIS threatens the West. Furthermore, the lexical choices which come after the lexical choice "threatening" are "gory bravado" that emphasizes the brutality of their actions. In this respect, they perform bloody terrorist actions which are a threat as those who support it seek a position to work with them. This reflects its bloody ideology according to the perspective of the newspaper. The lexical choice "beheadings" asserts their ideology of killing, blood and terror. Hence, it is presented negatively. The lexical choices are negative ones. The militants are portrayed as "extremist militants" who impose a "greater threat".

The Washington Post:

The Washington Post states in number (3) that ISIS is not only threatening Iraq, but also the surrounding areas. Its threat still "looms" on the surrounding areas. Its existence frightens the surrounding areas which is a negative presentation. In number (5), Senior U.S. intelligence official refers to ISIS' terrorism ambitions which are obvious from their threat that their aim is to expand worldwide. Adding words like "terrorism" and "aggressive" asserts its ideology of brutality. Its ambitions are "external terrorism" which is obvious in its "aggressive moves". Again ISIS is represented negatively as a terrorist state that imposes a threat in number (6) by The Washington Post. This threat is "a direct" which means that their ideology is crystal clear because of their actions. In addition, this "threat" is considered as a "growing" one to the country. Every action ISIS performs is presented negatively. In number (8), Obama presents the United States positively as a cooperative country that "stands" with its "close friend and ally in grief and resolve". Positive self-presentation is clear in the following lexical choices "stands", "grief and resolve", "work", and "degrade and destroy this threat". Obama presents US as the helpful country that will destroy ISIS and will bring it to justice. On the

contrary, ISIS is presented negatively as Obama portrays its members as "the perpetrators" whose actions are "outrageous".

The Guardian:

There is a positive other presentation to the US in The Guardian in number (1) as it mutes the threat. It points out that it wants to reveal peace and protect Iraq from danger as it cares for the safety of Iraq and its people from terrorism. Lexical choices as "played down" and "takeover" present it positively. In number (2), the US fights ISIS; thus, it justifies its air strikes. ISIS is considered a threat to it. Again the US is presented positively as it is the country that fights terrorism and ISIS is presented negatively as it is the threat that the US faces and wants to destroy. In example number (3), Islamic State (ISIS) is described negatively as an "apocalyptic" organization which is a threat to the whole world. It is considered an "imminent threat" which is a negative expression towards ISIS. It is presented negatively by the West and Senior Pentagon officials. Besides, the lexical choices "threaten" and "imminent threat" in number (8) describe ISIS negatively. It is a threat to "all Americans and Europeans" and to the interests of US anywhere. Its threat is imminent; hence, it may commit any barbaric action at any time. It has no rules and laws except brutality. In number (9), the existence of ISIS threatens the borders of Iraq and Syria. It may topple the borders of both states to enlarge its state. It not only threatens people, but also threatens the borders between countries. It causes "chaos ravaging" in Iraq and Syria. The US and EU are presented positively as they "support" the Kurds to protect its border which is "a historic moment for the Kurds". Therefore, lexical choices like "threatens" and "chaos ravaging" present ISIS negatively and "historic moment" and "support" present the US and EU positively. ISIS threatens the Kurds by its actions in number (10). Consequently, the US replies to its threat rapidly which proves that it is ready to help and protect others from ISIS' threats. To wrap up, ISIS is presented negatively and the US is presented positively. The

expansion of ISIS on Turkey's borders imposes a threat to Turkey as mentioned in number (11) because of ISIS' terrorist actions. Hence, their existence is a threat because they are dangerous. As a result, they are presented negatively by the newspaper.

The Independent:

According to The independent, in number (1), Islamic militants threat US forces to take revenge from its actions against them. They will perform terrorist action against them as a result of their strikes towards ISIS. In addition, The US is present positively in number (2) as they help Kurdish and Iraqi forces to confront ISIS. Moreover, it succeeded. Besides, ISIS "threatened" to march on Baghdad to frighten people. It is crystal clear that ISIS is represented negatively in number (3) as it imposes a threat not only to the Arabs but also to the West. It does not mind to show its brutal executions and violent atrocities which spread terror to the people. Lexical choices like brutal execution "," violent atrocities and "threats" that describe its action present it negatively and reflect its ideology of blood.
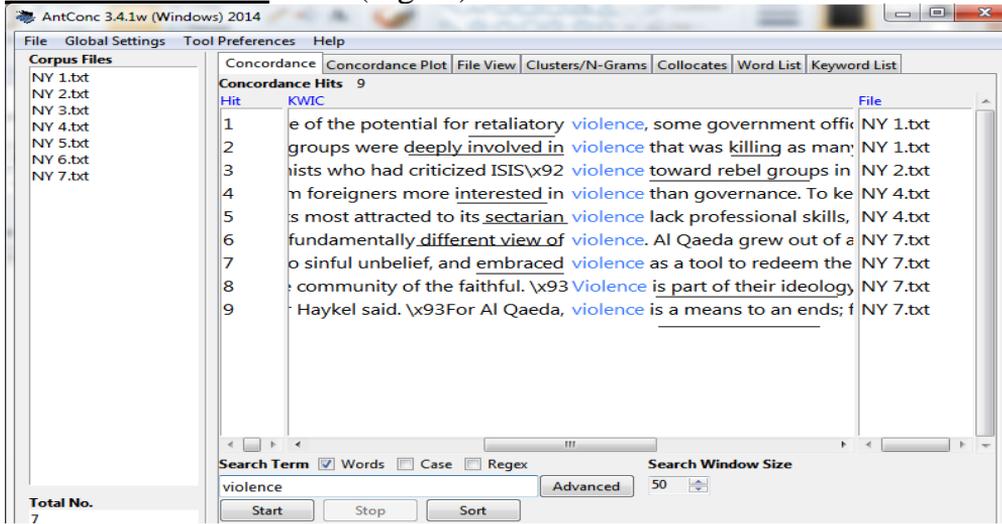
Findings:

It is obvious that the four newspapers present ISIS negatively. The lexical choice 'threat' is presented as a threat to countries and regions in the previous examples. The New York Times states that ISIS threatens Iraqi's largest dam, Iraq, the international community, the west and the border of the neighbor countries. Moreover, The Washington Post acknowledges that ISIS threatens northern Iraq's surrounding plain, Kurdish territory, the Middle East, the US, the world and Africa. Furthermore, The Guardian mentions that ISIS threatens the US, Europe, and the borders of Syria and Iraq. The Independent pinpoints that ISIS threatens American soil and Baghdad. Accordingly, the four newspapers present ISIS negatively

as it provokes threat to the world. Therefore, the four newspapers tackle the same ideology towards ISIS and present it in a negative way. On the contrary, the lexical choice "threat" implies power which is a positive presentation to the Islamic state. On the other hand, The Guardian presents US positively as it figures out that US is a peace maker that wants to mute this threat.
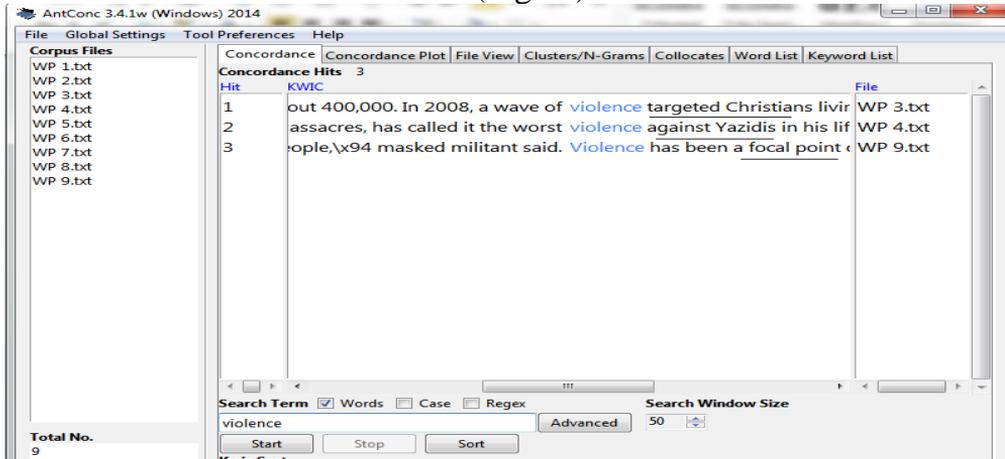
2-Violence:
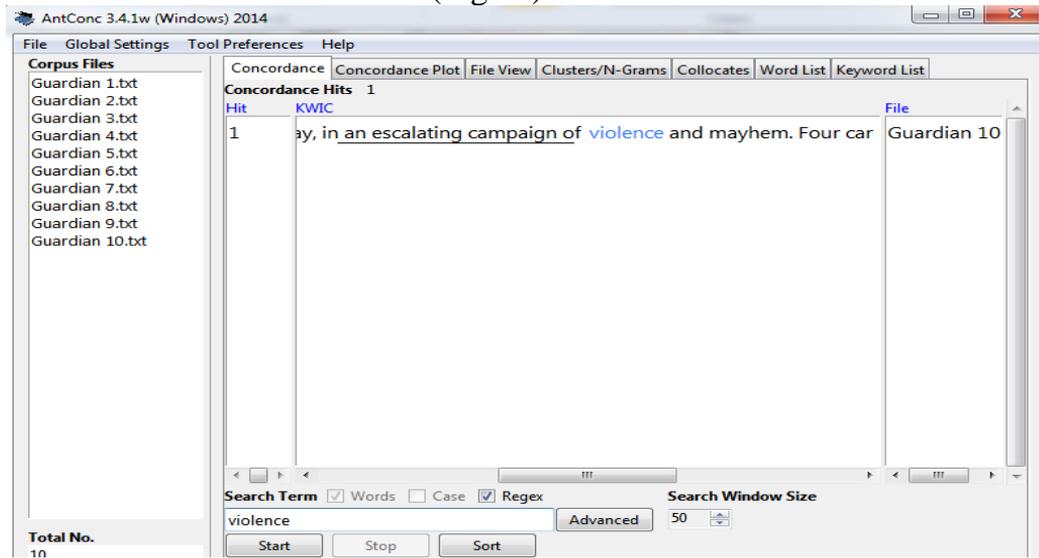**New York Times:**   (Fig.10)
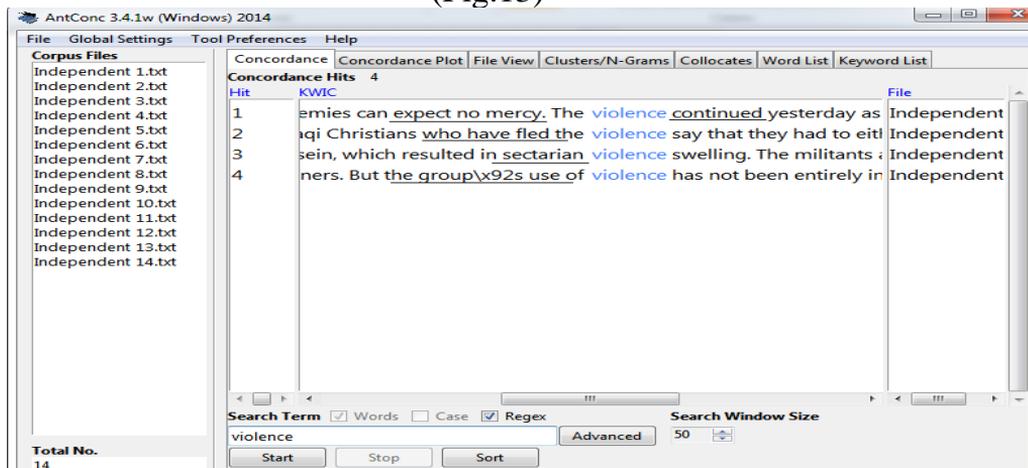
The Washington Post:

(Fig.11)

The Guardian:

(Fig.12)

The Independent:

(Fig.13)

4.8 Violence:
4.8.1 Violence against people:
The New York Times:

In number (1) ISIS's violence is described as "retaliatory violence" which means that it practices violence in order to take revenge. Example number (2) sheds light on Shiite groups as an actor of the violence. Hence, ISIS wants to take revenge from them as a result of their violence during the worst of the sectarian bloodletting in Iraq, from 2005 through 2007. The adverb "deeply" that comes before the lexical choice "involved" presents the ideology of the Islamic state which is practicing violence. Example number 3 states that ISIS's actions are not acceptable as they are inhumane. The Islamic state practices violence towards groups in Syria because they rebel against its aggressive actions and they denounce it. Some Islamists refuse the Islamic state actions as the Islam refuses these kinds of actions and prevents Muslims from doing it. The violence of the Islamic state is not acceptable even by some Islamists that implies a negative presentation which is a refusal to the Islamic state actions towards the people who reel against the Islamic state.

The Washington Post:

Examples 1 and 2 state that the group's target are Christians and Yazidis as they do not follow the group's religion. They act violence against them to leave the country.

The Guardian:

Example 1 shows the violence that ISIS does against citizens. The lexical choice violence is accompanied by the adjective "devastating" that describes car bombs which reflects the violence towards people.

The Independent:

Example 1 presents that ISIS acts violence against people as it kills at least 18. Example number 2 refers to Christians as the main source of violence as they started it since 2003; therefore, ISIS is taking revenge from them. The actor is Iraqi Christians and the goal is the violence. They do not practice violence these days; however, they have fled the violence which implies negative presentation towards ISIS who practices violence towards Iraqi Christians. Example number 3 shows that the swelling of sectarian violence is due to the deceleration of Christians in Iraq. It is obvious that Christians are abused in Iraq and do not take their rights. This result in migration which led to the decrease of their number and accordingly a sectarian violence swelling appears. The violence resulted in forcing the Christians to leave Iraq. The lexical choice "decrease" reveals the racism in Iraq because of the sectarian violence. Christians do not take their rights; hence, they started to leave their country.

4.8.2 Violence and Ideology:
The New York Times:

Examples 4,5,6,7,8 and 9 show that the main ideology of ISIS is violence. In example 4 the lexical choice violence comes with the

adjective "interested in" which presents the interest and goal of the group which is violence. Example 5 refers that the most interesting thing that attracted the new members of the group is "its sectarian violence", so the verb "attracted" presents the ideology of the group and its members. Furthermore, example 6 points out that the group has various views of violence. In example 7, the verb "embrace" sheds light on the idea that violence is the main ideology of the group as it "embraced violence" to redeem its enemies. Actually, numbers 8 and 9 are a direct statement as example 8 refers that "violence is a part of their ideology" and example 9 states that it is "a means to an end".

The Washington Post:

The third example implies that the ideology of ISIS is violence by using the lexical choice "focal point" as the sentence states that" Violence has been <u>a focal point of</u> Islamic State group propaganda"

The Independent

The lexical choice "indiscriminate" finds out that the group has a violence agenda as it chooses its victims. This means that the group has a well-established ideology of violence.

Findings:

Violence against people:

It is obvious that the Guardian shows the least focus on ISIS violence against people if compared to other newspapers. However, The New York Times and The Independent witness the highest percentage showing the ISIS aggression on people as it practice violence on people.

Conclusion

The researcher applies lexical choices to explore the representation of ISIS. Actually, ISIS is represented negatively because of its terrorist actions. Besides, it is presented positively indirectly as the lexical choice "threat" implies power. Lexical choices reveal its brutality by the lexical choice "threat" and "violence" with its different forms. While representing ISIS, the West represents themselves positively. AntConc software shows the number of times that the lexical choice "threat" is mentioned in the chosen newspapers. It is repeated in "The New York Times" 9 times, "The Washington Post" 12 times, "The Guardian" 11 times and "The Independent" 4 times. Moreover, the lexical choice "violence" is is repeated in "The New York Times" 9 times, "The Washington Post" 3 times, "The Guardian" 1 time and "The Independent" 4 times. Accordingly, in the current research AntConc software explores lexical choices that represent ISIS. In a nutshell, lexicalization shows the representation of ISIS in Western online newspapers. It shows the classification of this group by the West.

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