

Libya, the media and the language of violence: A Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis

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Abstract – The Arab revolution euphoria of 2011 was covered around the clock by different media sites, engaging millions of followers around the world, and eventually turning into discontent in some affected countries. This study examines the outcomes of the Libyan uprising (2011–2015), specifically the topics of civil-war and terrorism, through the lenses of the Arab written media in Arabic (*Al Jazeera* and *Al Arabiya*), the Arab written media in English (*Al Jazeera* and *Al Arabiya*), and the Western written media in English (BBC and CNN). Through Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis (CADS), integrating discursive news values analysis (DNVA), this study highlights the ideological representations of these media, and examines their similarities and differences in terms of frequency distribution and story content. The findings indicate that the media coverage of the outcomes of the Libyan Revolution, when reporting on the topics of war and terrorism, follow similar directions in the story content and the frequency distribution, with some differences in the latter between the analysed media sites. Also, the collocations, concordances, and DNVA results, especially NEGATIVITY, IMPACT and ELITENESS, prove the emphasis of the media on violent language, making terrorism appear the norm, and thus manipulating the audience and affecting their understanding of the news.

Keywords – corpus linguistics; CADS; DNVA; the Libyan revolution; ideology; media violence

1. INTRODUCTION

In 2011, a revolutionary wave swept the Arab regions, calling for the toppling of the old regimes and asking for dignity, employment and freedom, which came to be called ‘the Arab Spring’. Each of the participating countries took a different path, as Haider (2016) lists in his study. In the case of Libya, we find that it endured the fall of the ruling regime and the civil war, which makes it a unique case in comparison with the other countries (Smits *et al.* 2013). These outcomes were reported in all the media, but from different perspectives. This investigation is based on an analysis of the language of the media, specifically *Al Jazeera* and *Al Arabiya* Arabic and English, CNN and BBC in English, as well as the ideological orientations that served their agendas. We used Corpus-Assisted



Critical Discourse Analysis (CADS) in this study (Stubbs 1996; Partington 2006; Taylor 2013), which is a combination of Corpus Linguistics (CL) tools (i.e. frequency, keywords, collocation and concordance) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). We integrated the discursive news values framework (DNVA) with these corpus techniques to enhance the objectivity of the qualitative analysis. In this study we seek to answer four research questions:

1. From a quantitative angle, is there any significant difference in terms of distributions or lexical frequencies between the three categories of news articles?
2. From a qualitative angle, do the salient words reveal the same story contents within the three analysed media categories?
3. What do the collocations, concordances and DNVA reveal about the agendas and ideological orientations of the media organisations?
4. What news values are discursively constructed in English and Arabic?

The originality of this study lies in addressing the war and terrorism issues in Libya during the post-revolution period, not only in three different types of media but also in two languages. Besides, this study is the first to research the Arabic language with a combination of CL, CDA and DNVA approach.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Empirical background

2.1.1. The language of the media

A plethora of empirical research studies has investigated the different ideological orientations of the written media, which are of great significance in relation to the political discourse and play a fundamental role in changing facts and beliefs. Thus, previous studies have shown how each type of media tries to shape public opinion and escalate or de-escalate conflicts. For example, Romero-Trillo (2011) compared the English-language Indian and Pakistani press during their military confrontation in December 2008, using a CDA and a CL analysis. The results revealed the role of both media in igniting the conflict.

Several studies have proved that the media, especially the written media, tend to implement a violent discourse in their news. In fact, Romero-Trillo and Attia (2016) prove that the Arab media, represented by *Al Jazeera* (Arabic and English) and *Al Arabiya*

(Arabic and English), tended to adopt a violent discourse in reporting the events of the Tunisian revolution (2011–2015). The researchers used CDA to examine the outcomes of the Tunisian revolution through the eyes of the Arab and Western Media. The latter, represented by the BBC and CNN, proved, to a certain extent, to be more objective. Nevertheless, Haigh and Bruce (2017), who investigated the visual and story frames employed by *Al Jazeera* English and CNN during the Egyptian uprising (2011), found that both networks tended to use conflict and violence discourse, which tallies with the results obtained by Liebes and First (2004), who conducted a parallel study and revealed the excessive use of conflict images by media.

The present research offers an analysis of the written media coverage of the Arab Spring protests. It is worth mentioning the example of Syria's destructive war, starting in 2011, which has been in sharp focus from all categories of media as the great human disaster of the twenty-first century (Doucet 2018). Additionally, Yılmaz and Sinanoğlu (2014) explored the ideology of two Turkish newspapers, *Sabah* and *Cumhuriyet*, in covering Syria's war and their role in shaping public perception. The findings revealed that *Cumhuriyet* has more intense coverage on impactful, unexpected and brutal news than *Sabah*. However, both newspapers were found to be ideologically biased, which in turn affects the readers' grasp of the news.

Likewise, Haider (2016) compared two Gulf countries' newspapers, namely *Asharq Al-Awsat* and *Al-Khaleej* from 2009 to 2013, in the representation of Muammar Gaddafi before and after the Libyan revolution (2011). The findings display a positive portrayal of Gaddafi before the uprising and an extremely negative image in the post-uprising era, highlighting his cruel behaviour against his people and his involvement in terrorist activities. This, in turn, proves these newspapers' alignment and their effect on the public ideology.

In the same vein, Hamdy and Gomaa (2012) examined Egyptian semi-official newspapers, independent newspapers and grassroots media postings (*Twitter*, *Facebook*, and blogs) in framing the Egyptian uprising of 2011. The authors found that the semi-official newspapers tended to highlight the conflict and chaotic side of the revolution, painting the protests as a devastating catastrophe and warning of economic crisis.

2.2. *Corpus linguistics and CDA*

Corpus linguistics is a branch of linguistics that consists of the study of language based on corpora as primary data, that is, machine-readable samples representative of authentic language use. It employs a quantitative and statistical methods of analysis for the empirical analysis of languages. It aims to find “probabilities, trends, patterns, co-occurrences of elements, features or groupings of features” in the corpora (Krishnamurthy and Teubert 2007: 6).

CDA is a qualitative approach based on the relationship between language and ideology (van Dijk 1997; Fairclough 2001; Wodak 2001). It describes, interprets, and explains the social inequalities in a discourse (Mullet 2018). Baker *et al.* (2008: 280) claimed that, in CDA, “language is not powerful on its own – it gains power by the use people make of it and by the people who have access to language means and public fora.” Hence, we used interdisciplinary work to analyse the language and understand how it transmits knowledge (Wodak 2004).

Therefore, the combination of these two approaches, CL and CDA, proves to be an effective method, as has been demonstrated by a plethora of language research. For example, it has been used to study the representation of Islam and Muslims in the British press (Baker 2012); the examination of the discourses of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK press (Baker *et al.* 2008); the representation of Gaddafi in Gulf countries’ media (Haider 2016); the analysis of discursive constructions of Scottish and British English national identities and their ideologies of independence in the press (Romero-Trillo and Cheshire 2014); and the examination of the Tunisian case after the Arab Spring (Romero-Trillo and Attia 2016).

This synergy provided us with CADS approach that we adopted to examine the language of the media in relation to the outcomes of the Libyan revolution. This approach aims to uncover meaning that might not be observed by the naked eye. As argued by Stubbs (1996: 92), “you cannot understand the world just by looking at it.” In this respect, we seek to expose the implicit bias in the media discourse by revealing the way in which war and terrorism issues were described during the post-revolution period. In this approach, we applied Bednarek and Caple’s (2017) DNVA framework.

2.3 *The discursive news values analysis (DNVA)*

Caple and Bednarek (2017) broadly define DNVA as a new approach to the analysis of news values that uses discourse analysis to examine how such values are constructed through semiotic resources (language, image, etc.).

We see news values as those values that have been considered in the literature as defining the newsworthiness of reported events and actors (where newsworthy means ‘worthy of being news’). This includes news values such as TIMELINESS, NEGATIVITY, IMPACT, SUPERLATIVENESS, ELITENESS, CONSONANCE and others listed in Table 1, which includes nine types of news values and how they are constructed as newsworthy, according to Caple and Bednarek (2017: 79).

News value	The event, including people, organisations, locations, etc. is (constructed as)
CONSONANCE	(Stereo)typical (for example, stereotypes regarding news actors, social groups, organisations or countries/nations)
ELITENESS	Of high status or fame
IMPACT	Having significant effects or consequences
NEGATIVITY	Negative (for example, a disaster, conflict, controversy, criminal act)
PERSONALISATION	Having a personal or ‘human’ face (involving ‘ordinary people’)
PROXIMITY	Geographically or culturally near the target audience
SUPERLATIVENESS	Of high intensity or large scope
TIMELINESS	Timely in relation to the publication date (new, recent, ongoing, about to happen, current, seasonal)
UNEXPECTEDNESS	Unexpected (for example, unusual, strange, rare)

Table 1: News values and their definitions (adapted from Bednarek and Caple 2017: 79)

Many linguists define news values from a linguistic perspective. Bell states that “these are *values*. They are not neutral, but reflect ideologies and priorities held in society” (Bell 1991: 156 [italics in original]). Fowler (1991: 13, 15) also claims that news values are not ‘natural’ but rather culturally and socially constructed. Richardson (2006: 93) mentions how news coverage focused on negative events such as war, terrorism, disaster and conflict in the developing countries, in a study by the Glasgow Media Group.

Despite the different analyses of the ideological aspects of news values on a wide range of topics (Bednarek 2016; Dahl and Fløttum 2017; Kitano 2019; Makki 2019, 2020), news values have not yet been the focus of critical linguistic analyses of news

discourse. Indeed, only a few studies have integrated DNVA with corpus techniques (Potts *et al.* 2015; Maklad 2019).

To bridge this gap, in this article, we aim to integrate DNVA in applying corpus techniques to reveal how the Libyan war events are linguistically constructed as newsworthy. Thus, we focus on the verbal semiotic resource. We use the term ‘event’ as a cover term for semiotic events, that is, issues and happenings. With an event’s value, we refer to the sociocultural side. In other words, we are interested in analysing how news values are constructed through language to establish the newsworthiness of the reported events (see further Bednarek and Caple 2012a, 2012b, 2014 and Caple *et al.* 2020).

This linguistic approach is followed by Potts *et al.* (2015) in a first case study on a large newspaper corpus on one culturally important event: the Hurricane Katrina. Their aim was to apply and test the integration of corpus techniques, in particular tagged lemma frequencies, collocation, key part-of-speech tags (POS-tags) and key semantic tags in DNVA. Similarly, Maklad (2019) adopted DNVA and a corpus linguistics approaches to explore how news values related to hate crime offenders and victims have been linguistically constructed in the American news media.

However, this approach of linguistic analysis applied only to English-language news, and it has just recently started to be applied to other languages such as Chinese (Caple *et al.* 2020), Spanish (Fuster-Márquez and Gregori-Signes 2019) and Persian/Farsi (Makki 2019). Yet, it has not been developed for the Arabic language. In this study, we will follow the strategy of Caple *et al.* (2020), who took ten relevant news values to the Chinese context (rather than the linguistic resources) as a departure point and inductively established whether they were constructed in the Chinese data. In our case, we selected six news values that are relevant to the Arabic news context and we later applied them to the English data: ELITENESS, IMPACT, NEGATIVITY, POSITIVITY, SUPERLATIVENESS and PERSONALISATION.

Thus, this study is the first to apply a DNVA framework to Arabic. For this reason, it is essential to take into account the target audience of each news category and to carefully analyse the construction of news values as they are context sensitive. However, it is also important to mention that this is not an exact science. It must be borne in mind that language is multifunctional, and thus, one text can have different interpretations. For example, one event can construct either ELITENESS or PERSONALISATION while another event can construct both NEGATIVITY and IMPACT at the same time.

3. METHOD

3.1. Corpus and procedure

The official online websites of each media outlet (*Al Jazeera* Arabic and English, *Al Arabiya* Arabic and English and CNN and BBC in English) were used to collect news reports that contained words related to Libya and the Libyan revolution and its outcomes. The search was filtered to December 2011–2015, as December 2011 marked the first sparks of the Arab Spring, and thus, the reported news from 2012 onwards during the last month of the year focused on covering and evaluating the news of the entire year.

The search code was the term *Libya*. This was selected to capture a large number of news reports that would be representative. The search was then filtered to show only news, and the focus was mainly on the local reporters of each media set rather than on the copies of the news agencies (like AP and Reuters). But, although some of the news could be taken from these news organisations, each news website has its own reporters to write or express the news to the reader. It can be the same piece of news, but it will be written in different styles. We made sure not to have any similarity in the copies of the different analysed media sets. Finally, we focused on the analysis of words rather than analysing the text as a whole.

After that, the relevant texts of the articles were manually extracted and converted to .txt. They were all manually checked to exclude irrelevant articles, like sport and art news. In all, our corpus stands at 413 news reports, collectively containing 174,804 words. Table 2 describes the origin and amount of the collected data.

Compared corpora	Number of articles	Number of words
<i>Al Jazeera</i> Arabic and <i>Al Arabiya</i> Arabic	174	55,205
<i>Al Jazeera</i> English and <i>Al Arabiya</i> English	165	67,912
BBC and CNN	74	51,687
Total	413	174,804

Table 2: Number of news reports and number of words in the corpus

The data were stored in three separate sub-corpora, as Table 2 shows, and inside each sub-corpus, five sub-corpora for the five different years (2011–2015) were included. The articles were then fed into *AntConc* 3.3.4 (Anthony 2018) for the analysis.

Our overall methodology is based on a corpus-assisted discourse analysis. Bednarek and Caple (2014) suggest that various corpus linguistic techniques can be used to study

newsworthiness. Thus, our focus was on the following corpus techniques: keywords, frequency lists, collocations and concordances. We adopted DNVA for the discourse analysis in order to analyse the topics of war and terrorism in reports of Libya after the revolution.

3.2. Frequency analysis and keywords

In this paper, the frequency analysis was generated for five years (2011–2015) in the three media categories named above. Partington (2006: 260) states that:

Corpus-assisted studies of register, genre or discourse type are of course by definition comparative: it is only possible to both uncover and evaluate the particular features of a discourse type by comparing it with others.

Therefore, we compared each year for each media category against the remaining years and media sets. The frequency lists were retrieved by means of the *WordList* tool in *AntConc* with the statistical measure (log-likelihood) and the keywords lists were generated through this comparison. This method was also followed by Garzone and Santulli (2004) when they compared the early responses of four British daily newspapers to the events of September 11. These lists were then compared through a manual analysis reading and based on the significance of the items that were attested in both the *Wordlist* and the keywords list. We selected items that suggest an interesting analysis and can uncover a number of ideological motifs. As a result, we found different topics that ranged from politics to economy, international relations, war and terrorism. However, we decided to focus on the topics of war and terrorism, due to the significant results obtained. Figure 1 shows an example of the wordlist and the keyword results extracted from *AntConc* for the English language Arab media in the year 2012. We highlighted some of the significant words attested in both lists that related to the topic of war; those are examples of words that are analysed in the present research.

Fichier	Edition	Format	Affichage	Aide
18	55	security		
19	54	as		
20	51	we		
21	48	has		
22	47	by		
23	46	an		
24	45	have		
25	45	state		
26	44	benghazi		
27	44	from		
28	44	who		
29	43	gaddafi		
30	42	had		
31	41	is		
32	40	she		
33	39	were		
34	38	clinton		
35	38	he		
36	37	after		
37	37	its		
38	37	which		
39	36	al		
40	36	but		
41	35	attack		
42	35	be		
43	34	been		
44	34	his		
45	34	us		
46	32	department		
47	31	libyan		
48	29	i		
49	28	new		
50	27	oil		
51	25	it		
52	24	killed		

Fichier	Edition	Format	Affichage	Aide
#Types Before Cut: 2311				
#Types After Cut: 99				
#Search Hits: 0				
1	38	60.310	clinton	
2	40	55.537	she	
3	32	44.614	department	
4	22	24.789	her	
5	44	23.480	benghazi	
6	34	22.421	us	
7	35	21.985	attack	
8	45	21.859	state	
9	22	20.822	secretary	
10	15	17.783	diplomatic	
11	11	17.776	olive	
12	23	16.870	report	
13	10	16.160	assassination	
14	10	16.160	inadequate	
15	9	14.544	yunes	
16	14	14.158	th	
17	29	13.597	i	
18	11	13.143	my	
19	55	13.083	security	
20	14	12.926	place	
21	9	12.519	issa	
22	9	12.519	obama	
23	8	11.874	levels	
24	7	11.312	failures	
25	7	11.312	grossly	
26	100	11.277	was	
27	15	11.126	ambassador	
28	109	10.696	xa	
29	7	10.266	gadaffi	
30	8	10.065	posts	
31	51	9.765	we	
32	6	9.696	accepted	

Figure 1: Wordlist and keyword list results of the English language (EL) Arab media in 2012

3.3. Collocation analysis

The term ‘collocation’ was coined by Firth (1957) and was defined by Baker (2006: 96) as “the phenomenon that certain words often co-occur with each other.” In other words, collocations are (groups of) words that are frequently attached to a target term, provide it with valuable information, and can also “convey messages implicitly” (Hunston 2002: 109). Stubbs (2001: 29) states that “software can calculate collocations by observing how many times the word x occurs near the word y.” This technique was frequently adopted in the analysis of our data, using the log-likelihood ratio to identify higher-frequency words, and it is preferred here to identify statistically significant collocates. This step was supported by manual analysis to exclude some irrelevant items. Thus, the most statistically significant collocates of our selected keyword lists across each sub-corpus are singled out for further analysis.

3.4. Concordance analysis

According to Freaake *et al.* (2010: 28):

A concordance search shows all the occurrences of the search term (or phrase) and its immediate co-text; concordance lines [can be] expanded to the whole text when needed.

Thus, in this paper, we examined some concordance lines with the help of the CDA approach to scrutinise with care the language of the studied media outlets and reveal their biased and violent language. Baker *et al.* (2008: 290) state that “[a] corpus-assisted approach, which looks for specific linguistic patterns and carries out tests of statistical significance is, therefore, able to quantify notions like ‘bias’.”

However, there were some problems when creating concordance lines for Arabic, since the software does not fully support right-to-left languages, which led to manual support for putting the words in the right order.

4. RESULTS

The categories war and terrorism are the area of scope in this article. They were examined year by year. The frequency distribution is expressed with raw frequencies (RF) and percentages (%) to yield valid results.

4.1. The year 2011

The frequency distribution analysis in the year 2011 highlights the similar percentage of reporting on the topic of war within the English language media sets, both Arab (1.28%) and Western (1.08%), but only a lower percentage (0.58%) within the Arabic Language (AL) editions of the Arab media, as shown in Table 3.

Categories	AL: Arab media		EL: Arab media		EL: Western media	
	RF	%	RF	%	RF	%
War	61	0.58%	262	1.28%	117	1.08%

Table 3: Frequency distribution of the category war in 2011

We started to analyse the keywords that refer to the Libyan national security, that is, *security, army, military, police* and *brigades*, as they appeared across our selected media categories. The elements represented by these keywords are considered high-status professionals, which generally construct ELITENESS, as illustrated in Table 4.

Media	Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
AL: Arab media	الأمن <i>Ālḥm</i> ‘security’	21	واستعادة, والأمان, والاستقرار <i>wāst ‘ād</i> ‘restore’, <i>wāl ḥmān</i> ‘security’, <i>wālāstqrār</i> ‘stability’: transliteration and translation
EL: Arab media	<i>Army</i>	55	<i>uniting, structure, strong, strive,</i> <i>reinstated, reforming, oppressor,</i> <i>marginalised, inject, forming</i>
	<i>Military</i>	34	<i>gain, effective, disputing, displayed</i>
	<i>Brigades</i>	16	<i>uniting, pledge</i>
EL: Western media	<i>Army</i>	15	<i>stockpiles, securing, professionalising</i>
	<i>Police</i>	14	<i>stockpiles, revived, professionalising</i>

Table 4: Frequency and collocations of ‘National security’ keywords in 2011

The collocations in the three media categories refer to the desire of the Libyan transitional government and national security forces to restore peace and regain stability and security. We can notice that the AL editions of the Arab media suggest that the transitional government worked hard to restore and strengthen stability and security in the country. The same results were attested in the EL editions of the Arab media; the elements represented by the keywords that construct the news value ELITENESS, *army*, *military* and *brigades*, formed a unity by making strong structures and radical reforms together. These high-status government positions were striving to reinstate security to the country and also pledged to restore peace. Similarly, the EL editions of the Western media suggested that national security, such as the police and the army, started to work together after the revolution to protect the country. The collocation *professionalising* highlights their professionalism to secure weapon stockpiles. Examples (1) and (2) below highlight the efforts of the transitional government to strengthen these forces.

- (1) [...] be handed over to the recently revived military **police**. But on the streets, young men in mismatched [...] (BBC 15/12/2011)
- (2) [...] until the government’s revived national army and **police** force are seen as strong enough to take [...] (BBC 15/12/2011)

The words *revived* and *professionalising* suggest that the transitional government in Libya was working hard to restore security and stability by strengthening the national forces. These results suggest that the collocations and the concordance findings are potential pointers to a specific news value, which is POSITIVITY, due to their constant encouragement to reunite the country. However, it cannot be denied that this event can construct a NEGATIVITY news value to a certain type of audience that may encourage the instability in Libya for a specific purpose such as, for example, to flee easily from the

country, to support the old regime of Gaddafi, etc. Moreover, it is important to mention that the keyword *police* in examples (1) and (2) above is generally associated with negativity; in Bednarek and Caple's words (2014: 8), "police deals with crime." Therefore, NEGATIVITY is more commonly considered as a news value than POSITIVITY (though see Schulz 1982: 152 and Harcup and O'Neill 2001: 279 on positive news); in fact, NEGATIVITY has been called "the basic news value" (Bell 1991: 156).

Indeed, the keyword results for 2011 suggest that many names of weapons were depicted in the analysis of the three media categories, together with other violent words. For example, the words *rebels*, *weapons*, *guns*, *missiles*, *war*, *crimes*, *fighters* and *killed* were frequently attested. These negative keywords describe negative events that were happening. The list of collocations in Table 5 emphasises this NEGATIVITY news value, which can be understood by all types of audiences.

Media	Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
AL: Arab media	السلاح <i>Ālslāḥ</i> 'weapon'	16	بيريدون, تتدد, مناشدا, لافتات, الفوضى, انتشار Arabic terms; <i>yrydwn</i> 'want', <i>mdd</i> 'denounce', <i>mnāšdā</i> 'plead', <i>lāftāt</i> 'banners', <i>ālfwḍ</i> 'chaos', <i>āntšār</i> 'spread': transliteration and translation
	<i>Rebels</i>	39	<i>clashed, seats, killings, battled, autocratic</i>
	<i>Weapons</i>	41	<i>stripping, sweep, stores, experts,</i>
EL: Arab media	<i>Guns</i>	10	<i>specialists, removed, rigged, pledge</i>
	<i>Missiles</i>	7	<i>propelled, mortars, machine, aircraft, haul</i>
	<i>War</i>	39	<i>tank, stockpile, helicopter, assessing,</i> <i>armour, produce, mines, kilograms</i>
	<i>Crimes</i>	21	<i>genocide, remnants, scapegoat, seize,</i> <i>recovering</i>
EL: Western media	<i>Rebel</i>	10	<i>humanity, unlawful, genocide, accuse,</i> <i>suspicious, committed, tribunal</i>
	<i>Killed</i>	22	<i>dying, commanders, battle</i> <i>warehouse, trial, shots, missing, crossfire,</i> <i>allegations, battle, airstrike</i>
	<i>War</i>	20	<i>torn, terrible, sanctuary, overseas, civil,</i> <i>heed</i>
	<i>Guns</i>	10	<i>truck, startling, scaring, rifles, heavy,</i> <i>carrying, hands, reluctant</i>
	<i>Crimes</i>	7	<i>investigate, investigations, investigating,</i> <i>humanity, tyranny</i>

Table 5: Frequency and collocations of keywords for weapons names in 2011

Most of the collocations in the three media categories suggest a chaotic situation in Libya in 2011. The collocations indicate that fighters and rebels, who battled the autocratic

system that resulted in many killings, started some clashes with the national security forces in their struggle to gain seats in the National Transitional Council (NTC). These clashes made it difficult for the NTC and its forces to restore peace, especially with the spread of weapons and the wellspring recruitments by the rebels and their mobilisation. As a result, most verb and noun collocates clearly establish NEGATIVITY, through reference to the negative effects of the Libyan Revolution.

Although the specialists and experts pledged to sweep up all the weapons from the stores, crimes and genocides were still taking place. This created a mass militarisation that tipped the balance from a peaceful protest to an armed civil war (Bhardwaj 2012), as is highlighted by the collocations *shots, crossfire, airstrikes, dying, battle* and *insurgency*, which also construct NEGATIVITY.

This alarming situation can be corroborated by the African Union's Peace and Security Council meeting that took place in 2011, where the situation in Libya was defined as "a serious threat to peace and security in that country and the region as a whole" (Peace and Security Council 2011: 1). They further added

strong and unequivocal condemnation of the indiscriminate use of force and lethal weapons, whomever it comes from, resulting in the loss of life, both civilian and military, and the transformation of pacific demonstrations into an armed rebellion.¹ These quotes and collocations highlight Libya's ugliest underside in 2011 (2011: 1).

In this sense, we can conclude that 2011 was a massively hard year for the Libyans. From DNVA and corpus techniques perspectives, we can illustrate that the different media discourses share not only the same sense of negativity by showing a precarious and insecure situation, but also the same stance of positivity by beautifying and strengthening the image of Libya's national security forces in their attempt to restore peace amid unrest, which can also be negative to a specific type of audience.

4.2. *The year 2012*

The distribution in the year 2012 is almost the same as in the previous year. The topic of war is most frequent in the English language media sets (both Arab and Western), unlike the AL media, as can be seen in Table 6.

¹ AU document PSC/PR/COMM.2(CCLXV), 10 March 2011.

Categories	AL: Arab media		EL: Arab media		EL: Western media	
	RF	%	RF	%	RF	%
War	31	0.35%	109	1.09%	163	1.73%

Table 6: Frequency distribution of category war in 2012

In 2012 media results, the keyword *security* is attested in the three media categories in both languages, with different collocations and news values, as illustrated in Table 7.

Media	Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
AL: Arab media	الأمنية <i>Ālmnya</i> 'security'	16	السلاح, المخاوف, قدرات, ضعف, وفوضى: Arabic terms; <i>wfwḍa</i> 'chaos', <i>d'f</i> 'weakness', <i>qdrāt</i> 'abilities', <i>ālmḥāwf</i> 'fears', <i>āslāḥ</i> 'weapons': transliteration and translation
EL: Arab media	<i>Security</i>	55	<i>strengthen, risks, restored, progress</i>
EL: Western media	<i>Security</i>	80	<i>strengthening, solving, resolution</i>

Table 7: Frequency and collocations of the keyword *security* in 2012

Although the term *security* should construct POSITIVITY as it refers to terms such as *safety, protection, certainty*, etc., it constructs NEGATIVITY in the AL editions of the Arab media. It is related to negative terms like *weapons, chaos, weakness* and *fears*, which highlight the fragility of that period in Libya. Moreover, although *security* points to POSITIVITY in the EL editions of the Arab media, such as *strengthen, restored* and *progress*, this hypothesis was not supported by an analysis of the concordances, as shown in examples (3) and (4) below. These examples include pointers to NEGATIVITY, such as *inadequate, failures* and *failings*, which suggest the failure of the country to provide citizens with security and safety.

- (3) [...] State Department resulted in a Special Mission **security** posture that was inadequate for Benghazi [...] (*Al Jazeera* 19/12/2012)
- (4) with Republicans skewering the administration for **security** failings as well as a possible cover... (*Al Jazeera* 19/12/2012)

Similarly, in the EL articles of the Western media, the high frequency of the term *security* (80 tokens) denotes the persistent attempt of the government to restore peace, stability and security, as the collocates lend credence, namely *strengthening, solving* and *resolution*. However, the concordances also show similar results to those attested in the EL editions of the Arab media, as illustrated in (5) to (7) below.

- (5) [...] independent report that found “grossly inadequate **security**” and “systemic failures and [...]” (CNN 28/12/2012)

- (6) [...] military intervention is essential to solving the **security** crisis. When soldiers seized the capital [...] (CNN 12/12/2012)
- (7) [...] Security and Government Affairs, cites “extremely poor **security** in a threat environment that was ‘flashing red.’ (CNN 31/12/2012)

Examples (5) to (7) pinpoint NEGATIVITY, IMPACT and SUPERLATIVENESS as news values, which are emphasised through several expressions from the concordance analysis: *grossly inadequate security*, *security crisis* and *extremely poor security*. These results indicate not only the fragility of the security situation in Libya, but also the ideological bias of the Western media that is trying to represent a failed country with an ineffective security system. Indeed, the negative ideology was shared across the three media categories.

Moreover, the collocations in Table 8 construct different news values of Libya’s security situation.

Media	Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
AL: Arab media	الشرطة <i>Ālsrṭā</i> ‘police’	15	القنبلة, بتفجيرها, وهدد, استسلامه, تفاوضت Arabic terms; <i>tfāwḍt</i> ‘negotiated’, <i>āstslāmḥ</i> surrendered’, <i>whdd</i> ‘threatened’, <i>bṭḡyrhā</i> ‘detonated’, <i>ālqnbḷā</i> ‘bomb’: transliteration and translation
	<i>Attack</i>	35	<i>kill, lapse, fallout, deadly, Christopher</i>
EL: Arab media	<i>Assassination</i>	10	<i>torture, betrayal, Yunes</i>
	<i>Corruption</i>	9	<i>struggling, growing, anger, complained</i>
EL: Western media	<i>Attack</i>	54	<i>unconscious, terrible, surprising, sudden, opportunistic, enemy</i>
	<i>Militants</i>	12	<i>strength, growing, attacked, warning, strict, Islamist, armed, trick</i>
	<i>Rebels</i>	9	<i>Tuareg, ethnic, deployment, rebellions, staged, fighting, desert, battle</i>
	<i>Deadly</i>	8	<i>attacks, attack, Benghazi</i>

Table 8: Frequency and collocations of keywords related to *attacks* in 2012

The keywords *attack*, *assassination*, *deadly* and *corruption* attested in the three media categories construct NEGATIVITY. Moreover, the collocation *Christopher* constructs IMPACT, as it refers to the US ambassador in Benghazi consulate Christopher Stevens, who was attacked and killed. The Western media described his assassination as *sudden*, *surprising* and *terrible*, which are pointers to SUPERLATIVENESS and NEGATIVITY. These news values make the lapse of security in Libya explicit. This event can, however, construct POSITIVITY to a specific audience, who can be either encouraging violence and

chaos in Libya for their own benefits or hating the intervention of the US in the local issues of Libya. In the same vein, the collocations, *struggling*, *anger* and *complained* in the EL editions of the Arab media construct IMPACT, as they denote the spread and growth of corruption in Libya, plus the popular outrage that evolved into a civil war.

Moreover, the keyword *militants* in the EL coverage of the Western media constructs ELITENESS, as it refers to a high-weight group in Libya, that is, the Islamist militants. It also constructs NEGATIVITY, which is proved by the collocations *strong*, *strict*, *tricky* and *armed*. These collocations suggest the strength and danger of this Islamist group. The same results are found for the keyword *rebels*, which is assigned to *Touareg*, a specific ethnic category in Libya. The Touareg were rebellious for decades, and they took advantage of the power vacuum in Libya to fight and seize some areas. However, this event can also construct POSITIVITY to the audience that supports Touareg and the Islamist groups, as chaos may give them more power and strength to set their camps.

To summarise, the news values analysis with corpus techniques shows that the three media categories shared the same story content and negative ideology, exemplified by the NEGATIVITY news value towards Libyan security and the country's woeful situation in 2012.

4.3. The year 2013

A new topic burst in relation to Libya in the findings for the year 2013, that is, terrorism; however, it is not attested in the EL editions of the Arab media. Moreover, the Western media has the highest percentage of references to the topics of war and terrorism in Libya, as Table 9 shows.

Categories	AL: Arab media		EL: Arab media		EL: Western media	
	RF	%	RF	%	RF	%
War	33	0.29%	61	0.69%	100	1.84%
Terrorism	31	0.27%	0	0.00%	60	1.10%

Table 9: Frequency distribution of the categories of war and terrorism in 2013

4.3.1. Topic of war

As was the case in 2011 and 2012, the findings for the year 2013 also reveal the spread

of militias and tribal rebellions all over Libya that caused a state of terror. The collocations in Table 10 clearly construct NEGATIVITY, IMPACT and PERSONALISATION in the Libyan situation.

Media	Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
AL: Arab Media	الاغتيالات <i>Alāḡtyālāt</i> 'assassinations'	14	مصادمات, انفلاتات: Arabic terms; <i>ānflāt</i> 'breakdown', <i>mṣādmāt</i> 'clashes': transliteration and translation
	قتل <i>Qtl</i> 'kill'	10	اندلاع, هجوم, أصيب, ضابطان, ضحيتها, اغتيالات: Arabic terms; <i>āḡtyālāt</i> 'assassinations', <i>dḥyḥā</i> 'victim', <i>dābtān</i> 'two officers', <i>ḡyb</i> 'wounded', <i>hḡwm</i> 'attack', <i>āndlā</i> 'breakout': transliteration and translation
	مجهولين <i>Mḡhwlyn</i> 'unknown people'	9	هجومين, برصاص, خطيرة, شرطيا, مسلحين, اغتيالوا: Arabic terms; <i>mshyn</i> 'gunmen', <i>ṣrtyā</i> 'policeman', <i>hṡyrā</i> 'dangerous' <i>brṡāṡ</i> 'shot', <i>hḡwmyn</i> 'two attacks', <i>āḡtālwā</i> 'assassinated': transliteration and translation
EL: Arab Media	<i>Militias</i>	28	<i>shots, risk, rein, resisting, killings, tribesmen, servants</i>
	<i>Bombing</i>	12	<i>shooting, rattle, explosive, airliner, suicide, mourning, convicted</i>
	<i>Tribesmen</i>	11	<i>servants, minorities, civil, workers, militias, seized, oilfields, rein, problem, political</i>
EL: Western Media	<i>Shot</i>	10	<i>dead, Mosbah, teacher, colonel, gunmen</i>
	<i>Smith/teacher/ Ronnie/American</i>	28/21/ 10/14	<i>threatening, slain, murdered, shooting, gunmen, attackers, blood, shot, death</i>
	<i>Violence</i>	9	<i>kills, gripped, chaos, bursts, militia, assassinations, bombings, political</i>
	<i>Killing</i>	8	<i>investigate, diplomatic, ambassador, Americans, fire</i>
	<i>Assassinations</i>	5	<i>chaos, political, violence, ambassador, spiked</i>
	<i>Kidnapping</i>	5	<i>shooting, capture, revenge, Americans</i>

Table 10: Frequency and collocations of violence-related keywords in 2013

The three media categories reported on the events that caused an armed civil war, as shown in Table 10. Some examples were selected to highlight these events and their news values. We selected first some collocations from the three media categories that construct NEGATIVITY and IMPACT, and then we chose some collocations that construct PERSONALISATION:

- AL: Arab media: *assassinations, clashes, breakdowns, attacks, shots*, etc. (NEGATIVITY and IMPACT).
- EL: Arab media: *shooting, explosive, suicide, mourning, rattle, convicted*, etc. (NEGATIVITY and IMPACT).
- EL: Western media: *bursts, bombings, violence, chaos, shooting, killing, assassinations, kidnapping*, etc. (NEGATIVITY and IMPACT), but also, many *assassinations*.
- AL: Arab media: *two officers, police, victim* (PERSONALISATION).
- EL: Arab media: *the army colonel (Fethallah al-Gaziri), the American teacher: Ronnie Smith and Mosbah el-Kabaeli* (PERSONALISATION).
- EL: Western media: *the American teacher: Ronnie Smith* (PERSONALISATION)

Thus, we observe that the three media categories portrayed Libya in an alarming situation, rife with assassinations and kidnappings, that were exemplified by NEGATIVITY, IMPACT and PERSONALISATION of the victims. The results elucidate a state of horror. The story content and the negative ideology are the same throughout these media.

However, as a general fact, any fight or war has supporters and adversaries. That is why the results that suggest Libya to be a state of horror can construct POSITIVITY to those supporters of the Libya's chaos in order to promote their own interests.

4.3.2. Topic of terrorism

The term *Shariaa* in the AL editions of the Arab media and the EL reporting of the Western media refers to *Ansar al-Shariaa* ('supporters of Islamic Law'). This term is a pointer to ELITENESS, as it is considered a Salafist Islamist militia group that advocated the implementation of an extreme Islamic law across Libya (Irshaid 2014). This organisation is considered a terrorist movement by many powerful countries, such as the United Kingdom, the United States, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey (Home Office 2016).

The collocations that are associated with this movement in the AL editions of the Arab media (*debate, acknowledge, notes and confirms*) strongly elucidate the dominant position that Ansar al-Shariaa has in making decisions in Libya (see Table 11).

Media	Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
AL: Arab Media	الشريعة <i>Ālšry</i> 'ة' 'Shariaa'	31	يؤكّد, يشرّ, يقفّر, والنقاش: Arab terms; <i>wālnqāš</i> 'debates', <i>yqr</i> 'acknowledges', <i>yšr</i> 'notes', <i>ykd</i> 'confirms': transliteration and translation
	<i>Qaeda</i>	38	<i>sympathisers, supporters, sympathetic, planner, scary</i>
EL: Western Media	<i>Sharia/Ansar</i>	8/5	<i>Islamic, Islamist, militant, militia, deadly, political, assassinations</i>
	<i>Islamist</i>	9	<i>militiamen, hardliners, militant, tortured, Islamists, militia, arrested, anger</i>

Table 11: Frequency and collocations of keywords related to *terrorist groups* in 2013

Therefore, the results from the AL editions construct UNEXPECTEDNESS, which highlights the powerful and controlling position of Ansar al-Shariaa. However, the collocations in the EL articles of the Western media construct NEGATIVITY, since they highlight its association with terrorist words, such as *assassinations, deadly, militant* and *militia*. These violent words are also related to *Islamic* and *Islamist*, which seems a suggestion from the Western media that Islam is connected to terrorism. Similarly, the salient term, *Islamist* is associated with violent words like *tortured, arrested* and *anger*, as well as with *militiamen, militia, militant* and *hardliners*, which are pointers to NEGATIVITY.

Moreover, the EL coverage of the Western media reported on another group called Al Qaeda, which is a militant Sunni Islamist organisation (Bergen 2006). It has been listed as a terrorist movement by the United Nations Security Council, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union and several other countries. It is also a multinational movement supported by Islamist extremists from all over the world. As shown in Table 11, the collocations *sympathisers* and *supporters* highlight the firm position that Al Qaeda had in Libya by gaining support and sympathy from the different militia groups that joined the movement. However, from the collocation *scary* it can be suggested that civilians fear this movement. Therefore, these collocations can construct NEGATIVITY to the audiences that do neither agree with nor support Al Qaeda and can construct POSITIVITY at the same time to the audiences that sympathise and encourage the principals of this organisation.

It can, therefore, be argued that the AL editions of the Arab media and the EL coverage of the Western media construct the same NEGATIVITY towards the militia groups that arose in Libya in 2013 and their dominant position in the country.

4.4. The year 2014

Both categories of Arab media covered the topic of war in 2014 with percentages similar to those attested in previous years. However, the topic of terrorism was covered only by the EL editions of the Arab media with a low percentage (see Table 12).

Categories	AL: Arab media		EL: Arab media		EL: Western media	
	RF	%	RF	%	RF	%
War	228	1.51%	266	1.77%	0	0.00%
Terrorism	0	0.00%	40	0.26%	0	0.00%

Table 12: Frequency distribution of the categories war and terrorism in 2014

4.4.1. Topic of war

The findings for the AL editions of the Arab media show the attestation of new war factions that are pointers to ELITENESS, since they have a high value in the country, *Fajr Libya* ('Libya Dawn') and *Haftar's army group*, and the emergence of two rival governments. The collocations and the salient words suggest (see Table 13) the development of a civil war between Haftar's group, Fajr Libya, Libya Shield Force and other militias seeking control of the territory and oil of Libya.

Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
فجر <i>Fġr</i> 'fajr'	92	مسلحي, مقاتلين, انصار, باشتباكات, وحرس, درع, كتائب, ميليشيا, ميليشيات Arabic terms; <i>mylyšyāt</i> 'militias', <i>mylyšyā</i> militia', <i>ktāšb</i> 'battalions', <i>dr</i> 'shield', <i>whrs</i> 'guards', <i>bāštbākāt</i> 'clashes', <i>ānšār</i> 'ansar', <i>mqātlyn</i> 'fighters', <i>mshly</i> 'militants': transliteration and translation
الجيش <i>ālġyš</i> 'the army'	54	ودبابات, سلاح, سيقصف, يخوض Arabic terms; <i>yhwđ</i> 'fight', <i>syqsf</i> 'will bomb', <i>slāh</i> 'weapon', <i>wdbābāt</i> 'tanks': transliteration and translation
حفتر <i>hftr</i> 'Haftar'	42	Arabic terms; هجومه, اشتباكات, طرد, يشنها, يقود <i>yqwd</i> 'leading', <i>yšnhā</i> 'launching', <i>trd</i> expelling', <i>āštbākāt</i> 'clashes', <i>hġwmh</i> 'attacking': transliteration and translation
الميليشيات <i>ālmlyšyāt</i> 'militias'	21	معسكرات, نصبت, قاعدة, معسكرات Arabic terms; <i>m'skrāt</i> 'camps', <i>qā dš</i> 'stronghold', <i>nšbt</i> 'put', <i>m'rkth</i> 'battle': transliteration and translation
اشتباكات <i>āštbākāt</i> 'clashes'	19	اندلعت, المتنافستين, بجروح, جرحى, سقطوا, عنيفة, للحكومتين Arabic terms; <i>llhkwmtyn</i> 'two governments', <i>nyf š</i> 'violent', <i>sqtwā</i> 'fell', <i>ġrħ</i> 'wounded', <i>bġrnwġ</i> 'injured', <i>ālmtnāfstyn</i> 'rivals', <i>āndl 't</i> 'broke out': transliteration and translation

Table 13: Frequency and collocations of the topic of war in the AL editions of the Arab media in 2014

Fajr Libya militia, which is a non-jihadist group, is collocated with war and conflict terms, such as *militia, clashes, fighters, battalions* and *militants*, that point to both NEGATIVITY and IMPACT due to their continuous association with attacks and clashes. Moreover, the salient words *the army* and *Haftar* refer to the General Khalifa Haftar group (ELITENESS), a pro-government movement. Haftar is also famous for its hatred of the jihadist groups. The collocations construct, again, NEGATIVITY and IMPACT as they describe the launch by Haftar's armed group and the Libyan National Army (LNA) of a series of clashes and attacks, using bombs, weapons and tanks against Fajr Libya militia and others. Similarly, the other militias were bombed, which made it a fierce and furious battle. The clashes and bombardments also included the two governments that are operating in Libya; the Tobruk government, known as the House of Representatives, led by the Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni and backed by Haftar, and its rival, the Tripoli government, known as the General National Congress and backed by Fajr Libya (Libya Dawn).

Similarly, the high frequency of the keywords in the EL editions of the Arab media can only reinforce the impression of the catastrophic situation of Libya. The pointers of NEGATIVITY and IMPACT (*fighting, clashes, fire, violence, strikes*, etc.) describe again the painful continuum of chaos and violence in Libya. Moreover, the pointers of ELITENESS (*Fajr, Haftar, soldiers, Touareg* and *tribes*) portray the different factions in the country that are seeking to gain land, oil and ports, due to the lack of governance, which turned the situation into a civil war.

As shown in Table 14, the collocations related to the words of brutality and destruction that also construct NEGATIVITY, (*tumultuous, raged, crush, fighter, deadlock, fended, damaged, destruction, grave*, etc.) highlight the fighting and clashes between these different groups, which led not only to the escaping of many civilians to Tunisia and Algeria through borders but also to the damaging of the oil ports by fire due to airstrikes. These references construct the Impact of the Libyan situation.

Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
<i>Fighting</i>	35	<i>tumultuous, struggling, raged, escaped, escalated, crush</i>
<i>Fajr</i>	32	<i>dismantled, fighter, militiamen, radicals</i>
<i>Haftar</i>	31	<i>crush, waging, supporters, confrontations</i>
<i>Clashes</i>	28	<i>persist, fighter, fended, deadlock, broke</i>
<i>Border</i>	24	<i>Algeria, Tunisia, Tunisian, patrolling, destroying, closes, ripe, smuggling</i>
<i>Soldiers</i>	20	<i>kill, fighter, damaged, battalion, broke, die</i>
<i>Fire</i>	20	<i>spreads, extinguish, blaze, firefighters, damaged, tank</i>
<i>Touareg</i>	18	<i>refused, supported, stormed, shifting, rebellion, indigenous, forge, tebu</i>
<i>Violence</i>	18	<i>triggering, targeting, trajectories, infighting, entangled, embroiled, destruction, deadlock, ending, grave</i>
<i>Strikes</i>	18	<i>flew, footage, aviation, targets, air</i>
<i>Terrorism</i>	13	<i>Westerners, strengthening, Islamism, threats, jihadist</i>
<i>Tribes</i>	9	<i>violently, pitted, shifting, nomadic, broken, allegiances</i>

Table 14: Frequency and collocations of *war* in the EL editions of the Arab media in 2014

This situation was caused by the spread of different groups across the country: *Fajr Libya*, *Haftar group*, *Touareg*, *tribes*, *soldiers*, *terrorists*, and many more. However, the new groups that appeared in 2014 were the extremist militants or terrorists that led the situation to fester, affecting not only Libya but all the bordering countries, which represented a greater threat to the west.

To summarise, the Arab media in both languages highlight the violent and bloody civil war that circulated in Libya. They both reported on the fighting among the different militia groups (NEGATIVITY, IMPACT and ELITENESS).

Yet, it is important to mention that this chaos and violent situation in Libya led to the birth of terrorists inside the country, which could be positive to their supporters.

4.4.2. Topic of terrorism

Similar to the EL coverage of the Western media in 2013, the topic of terrorism is related to the religion of Islam, which can be seen from the salient word *Islamist* in Table 15.

Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
<i>Islamist</i>	40	<i>kill, clashed, broke, threatening, smuggling</i>

Table 15: Frequency and collocations of the category terrorism in the EL editions of the Arab media in 2014

The word refers to the new groups of Jihadists or Islamist militants in Libya, as can be seen in examples (8) to (11).

- (8) At least 19 Libyan soldiers were killed in clashes with **Islamist** militia on Thursday east of the country [...] (*Al Arabiya* 25/12/2014)
- (9) [...] of Tripoli, is in the hands of **Islamist** militias including Ansar al-Sharia, which [...] (*Al Arabiya* 26/12/2014)
- (10)[...] following clashes between pro-government forces and **Islamist** militias, officials said on Friday. (*Al Arabiya* 26/12/2014)
- (11)[...] and the eastern city of Benghazi from **Islamist** militants. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria [...] (*Al Arabiya* 13/12/2014)

It cannot be denied that the term *Islamist* constructs NEGATIVITY and IMPACT, through its association with *killed, clashes, Ansar al-Sharia, the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham*. It clearly reveals that the media emphasised the extent of violence, making terrorism appear to be the norm. Therefore, this media category suggests that the new group, Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS), is related to Islam and Muslims, which serve its agenda.

4.5. The year 2015

The year 2015 was very exceptional in Libya, as we can see from Table 16. The topic of war was no longer attested, and the focus switched to the topic of terrorism, widely attested in all the media, thus illustrating its negative effect on the country.

Categories	AL: Arab media		EL: Arab media		EL: Western media	
	RF	%	RF	%	RF	%
Terrorism	151	1.54%	164	1.17%	265	1.24%

Table 16: Frequency distribution of the category terrorism in 2015

In 2015, a broad range of leaders worked feverishly to erode the civil war, strengthen unity and establish democracy. As daunting as this task may seem, further difficulties could be seen on the horizon, due to the so-called ISIS.

The appearance of Al-Qaeda as a salient word in the AL editions of the Arab media category can only indicate its relationship to the Islamic State (IS). Indeed, they are both internationally considered terrorist movements, and they both construct ELITENESS.

Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
القاعدة <i>Ālqā'd</i> 'Qaeda'	47	القيادة: الكتيبة, تنظيمي, محتدم, الصراع, وداعش, يخشى, يخشى Arabic terms; <i>yḥš</i> 'fearful', <i>yḥwf</i> 'afraid', <i>wdā's</i> 'Daesh', <i>ālśrā</i> 'conflict', <i>mḥtdm</i> 'fringing', <i>mzmy</i> 'organisational', <i>ālkyb</i> 'battalion' <i>ālqyād</i> 'leadership': transliteration and translation
تنظيم <i>Tnzym</i> 'organisation' داعش <i>dā's</i> 'ISIS'	43/36	سحق, يتخوف, يتمدد, يسيطر, يرسل, يضم, ينفذها Arabic terms; <i>ynfdhā</i> 'implements it', <i>ydm</i> 'combines', <i>yrs</i> 'sends', <i>ysyṭr</i> 'controls', <i>ytmdd</i> 'expands', <i>yḥwf</i> 'fears', <i>shq</i> 'crushed': transliteration and translation
الإرهاب <i>Ālḥrāb</i> 'terrorism'	19	لتخليص, لتطهيرها, للتعاون, لمحاربة, مكافحة, المساعدة Arabic terms; <i>almsā'd</i> 'help', <i>mkāfḥ</i> 'strive', <i>lmḥārb</i> 'fight', <i>llt'āwn</i> 'cooperate', <i>lṭṭhyrhā</i> 'to cleanse it', <i>lṭḥlyṣ</i> 'to get rid of': transliteration and translation
مقاتل <i>Mqātil</i> 'fighter'	6	عديد, قاتلوا, آلاف, ألفي, ثمانمئة, وثلاثة Arabic terms; <i>wṭlāt</i> 'three', <i>tmānm</i> 'eight hundred', <i>ḥfy</i> 'two thousand', <i>ḥfy</i> 'two thousand', <i>ḥāf</i> 'thousands', <i>qātlwā</i> 'fought', <i>dyd</i> 'many': transliteration and translation

Table 17: Frequency and collocations of the category terrorism in the Arabic language in 2015

The collocations *organisational*, *battalion*, *leadership* and *Daesh* prove that these two extremist groups share the same category, organising conflicts and attacks together, and implementing fear in Libya and the world in general, which classifies them in NEGATIVITY and IMPACT news values. Yet, these events can construct POSITIVITY to their supporters, who are encouraging them to gain more control and expand more in the territory. As ISIS expanded in Libya, it succeeded in gaining control over many territories due to its large number of fighters, which can be proven by the collocations of the term *fighter*, as shown in Table 17: *three*, *eight hundred*, *two thousand* and *many*. These pointers to SUPERLATIVENESS focus on the number of fighters, which can be interpreted as an attempt to panic a certain type of audience, while an encouragement and pride to the supporters of this movement. However, the collocations related to the salient word *terrorism* show that the government strives to crush them and cleanse the country, which constructs SUPERLATIVENESS as well.

Likewise, the EL editions of the Arab media covered the new-born terrorist group, ISIS. The security vacuum in Libya allowed this group to gain a foothold. As shown in Table 18, the collocations *stolen*, *slain*, *perpetrate*, *militancy* and *massacred*, which construct IMPACT, show their terror attacks and their horrible massacres in the country. The salient words, *chaos*, *threat* and *militant* manifest the chaotic situation of Libya and the violent role of ISIS, pointing to NEGATIVITY and IMPACT with collocations such as *thrown*, *killing*, *ouster*, *violence*, *threatened*, *outrages*, *lawless*, *criminals*, *terror* and

exploiting. Moreover, the collocations of the salient word, *rival* indicate the struggle between the ELITENESS pointers (*administrations, governments and parliaments*) and the terrorist group ISIS that is obstructing them in their efforts to move the country forward.

Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
<i>ISIS /ISIL</i>	72	<i>warns, tackle, stolen, slain, perpetrate, militancy, massacred</i>
<i>Rival</i>	48	<i>wracked, obstructing, impress, administrations, governments, parliaments</i>
<i>Chaos</i>	23	<i>thrown, sunk, preventing, killing, ouster, rebellion, violence</i>
<i>Threat</i>	14	<i>threatened, outrages, lawless, grapple</i>
<i>Militant</i>	7	<i>criminals, extremist, terror, struggling, exploiting</i>

Table 18: Frequency and collocations of *terrorism* in the EL Arab media in 2015

Similarly, the findings of the EL coverage of Libya in the Western media category indicated the spread and danger of ISIS in Libya and worldwide. As illustrated in Table 19, the collocations of the salient words *ISIS, attacks, terrorism* and *chaos* demonstrate the successful attempt of ISIS to take over some territories.

Keyword	Frequency	Collocations
<i>ISIS</i>	164	<i>shutting, punishments, warns, volunteers, takeover</i>
<i>Attacks</i>	35	<i>threaten, struggled, Milan</i>
<i>Rival</i>	28	<i>tribes, politicians, lawmakers, fuelled, governments, parliaments, militia</i>
<i>Terrorism</i>	27	<i>suffer, Pakistan, Sinai, protecting, hotbed, homegrown</i>
<i>Chaos</i>	11	<i>overthrow, Muammar, removal, revolution, instability</i>

Table 19: Frequency and collocations of *terrorism* in the Western media in 2015

Moreover, it cannot be denied that this group spread around the globe, as indicated by the frequent collocation of the word *attacks* with placenames, such as *Nigeria, Mali, Egypt, US* and *Europe*, which construct PROXIMITY (see (12) to (15)).

(12)[...] up key national security nominations.” Terrorist **attacks** in San Bernardino, California, and Paris [...] (CNN 16/12/2015)

(13)[...] members still to continue audacious and deadly **attacks**. Nigeria cannot afford to ignore the large [...] (BBC 21/12/2015)

(14)[...] blamed on Tuareg and Islamist groups 2015: Terror **attacks** in the capital, Bamako, and central Mali [...] (BBC 21/12/2015)

(15)[...] both the scale and frequency of its **attacks** on the Egyptian military have grown exponentially. (CNN 31/12/2015)

Despite this extremist group's terror attacks all over the world, all the Libyan parties (ELITENESS), that is, tribes, politicians, lawmakers, governments and parliaments, gathered and united to combat them and restore peace, stability and security in Libya.

The results of the analysis of the media reports in 2015 highlight the bias of the media when reporting on the outcomes of the Libyan revolution. Although the government was working hard to restore peace and security, the media focused mainly on the attacks of the new militia group, ISIS, as proved by ELITENESS, IMPACT and NEGATIVITY news values.

5. DISCUSSION

This cross-linguistic study explored, through DNVA and corpus techniques, a new dimension on how some news websites covered Libyan news events, specifically the topics of war and terrorism, during the post-revolutionary period.

To answer the first research question, namely, whether there is any significant difference in terms of distributions or lexical frequencies between the three categories of news articles, we found that the quantitative analysis of the frequency distribution highlights the similarities and differences between the three media categories under investigation. As we can see in Figures 2, 3 and 4 below, the category war had low percentages (AL 0.29% and EL 0.69%) in the two Arab media editions in 2013, while the Western media showed a higher frequency (1.84%). In contrast, in 2014, the Western media showed a remarkable drop of the frequency of the category war, while there was a high frequency of this category in the two Arab media editions. However, the topic of terrorism showed a sudden burst all in the media categories during 2015.

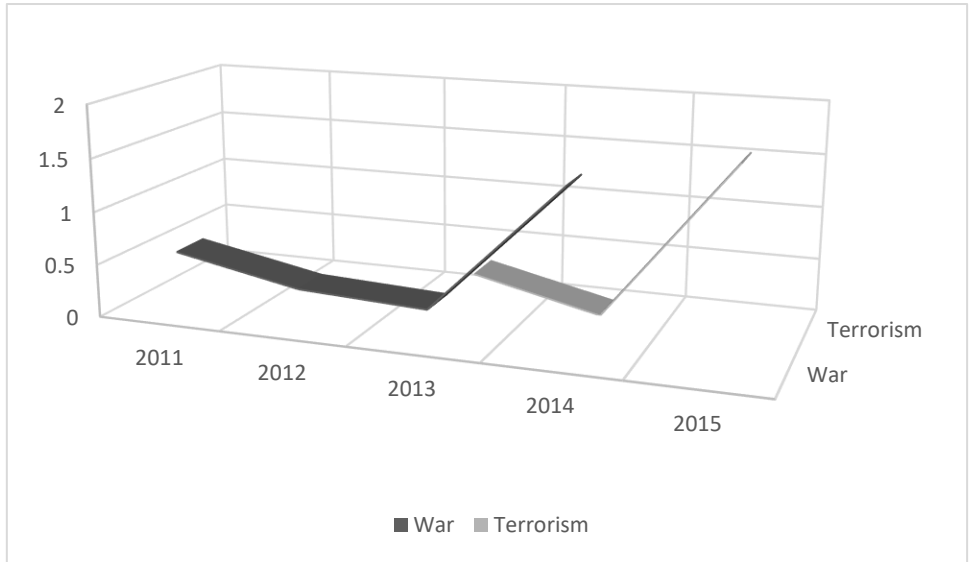


Figure 2: Frequency distribution of the categories war and terrorism in percentages in the AL editions of the Arab media

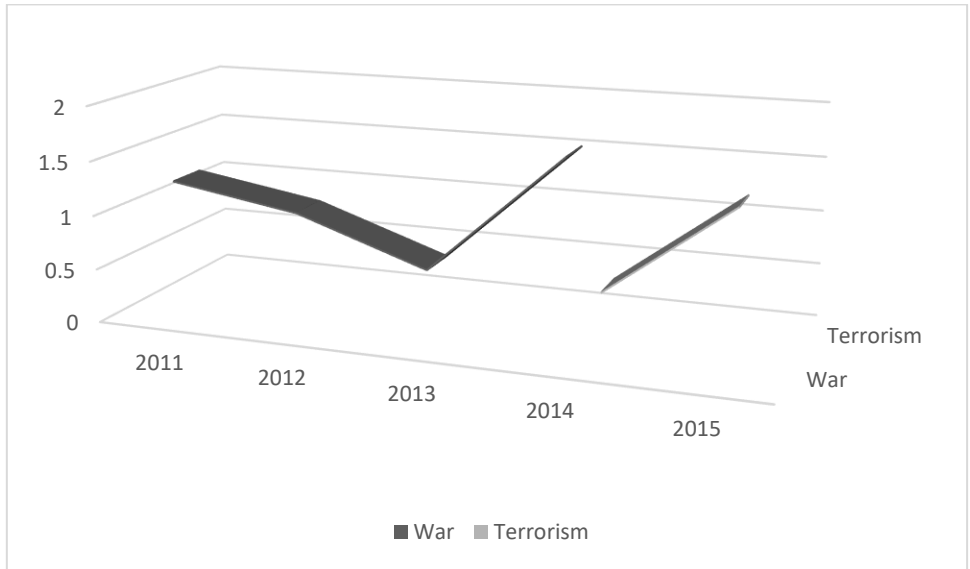


Figure 3: Frequency distribution of the categories war and terrorism in percentages in the EL editions of the Arab media

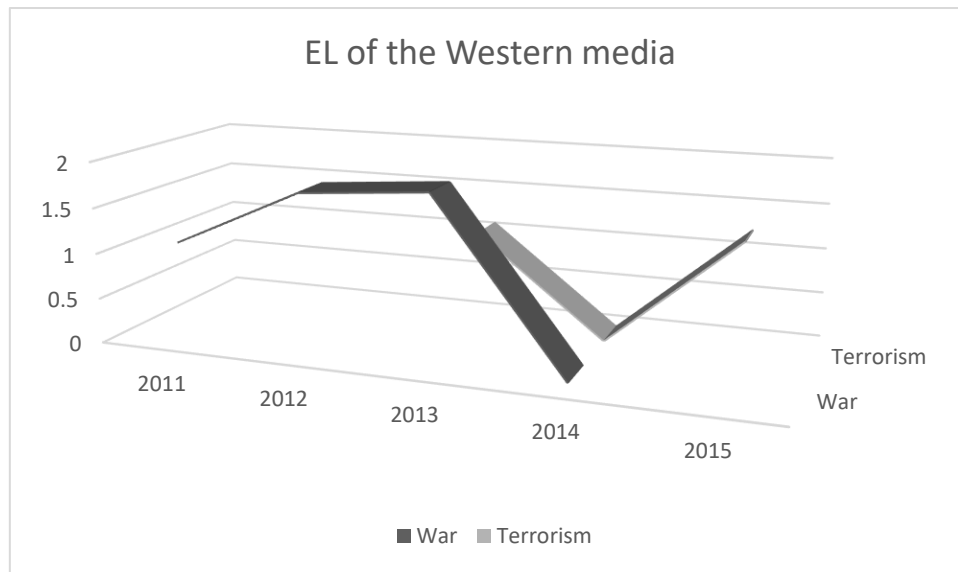


Figure 4: Frequency distribution of the categories war and terrorism in percentages in the EL editions of the Western media

As for the second research question, which enquires whether the salient words reveal the same story contents within the three analysed categories of media, the results show that the three media types have the same story contents in the categories of war and terrorism during the period under investigation. The quantitative and qualitative analyses confirm the use of the same conflict discourse in the AL and EL editions of the Arab media and the EL output of the Western media, despite their different ideological backgrounds, which, in turn, provides an answer to the third research question which deals with the role of collocations, concordances and DNVA in the agendas and ideological orientations of the media organisations. Therefore, when it comes to a situation such as that of Libya, which has the focus of the media, it becomes the wellspring of conflicts and battles and the arena of civil war and terrorism. In this context, the language of violence is assumed in the discourse of all the media dealt with in the present study. The high frequency of the news value NEGATIVITY proves that the war became the mainstay of the media, as it was persistent during the four years following the revolution (2011–2014) and this category reflects the terminology of battles, clashes, killings and weapons. Therefore, the DNVA approach proves that all the media employed violent discourse when describing the situation of Libya during these years.

Nevertheless, further analysis of the collocations and the concordances in all the years under analysis here proves that this positive perspective cannot cover up the violent orientation of the media. Indeed, violent terms, such as *shots*, *crossfire*, *dying*, *battle*, *assassinations* and *bombings*, are frequently used. As a result, these media share the same

negative and violent story contents and ideologies during the five years analysed (2011–2015), which aligns with the view of Marsden and Savigny (2010) on how the media can play a significant role in shaping political agendas and easily manipulate the audience.

As regards our fourth research question, which addresses what news values are discursively constructed in different languages, the Arab media repeatedly portrayed a perilous image of the terrorist organisations that constructed ELITENESS (Ansar Al-Shariah and Al Qaeda) and the new-born extremist movement: ISIS. They were collocated with NEGATIVITY news values terms, such as *killings, assassinations, violence, threatened, criminals* and *terror*. This persistent negative tone of coverage within the Arab media was also attested in Fahmy and Emad (2011), and in Romero-Trillo and Attia (2016) for the reporting of Tunisia in the Western media.

The findings indicate the danger of ISIS, which not only gained some territory in Libya but also spread worldwide, as shown by some concordances that constructed PROXIMITY, such as *Nigeria, Mali, Egypt, US, Europe* and *Milan*. Moreover, the results of the story content of the English language media (both Arab and Western) associate terrorism with Islam. For example, they include references to Islam in association with negative expressions of killings and threats that also construct NEGATIVITY, such as *kill, clashed, broke* and *threatening*. The attempt to relate terrorism to Islam in the media was confirmed by Törnberg and Törnberg (2016).

In sum, the frequency analysis shows remarkable similarities and differences in the coverage of war and terrorism in the three media categories. As regards the story content, the salient words show that the three media have the same story contents in the categories of war and terrorism during the period under study. This is shown in the analysis of the news values, which mainly construct NEGATIVITY, IMPACT and ELITENESS, highlighting the negative and violent discourse of the three media, and, in turn, shaping the readers' beliefs. However, PERSONALISATION, POSITIVITY and SUPERLATIVENESS play a less prominent role. We have found limited overlap with Caple *et al.* (2020), namely that NEGATIVITY is important in our study, while it has less importance in the Chinese data of their study. ELITENESS is equally important in both studies, while POSITIVITY and SUPERLATIVENESS are less often found in our study but prominent in theirs. Overall, our data confirm the importance of NEGATIVITY in the analysed news media. Thus, the analysis reveals unequivocal evidence that the media emphasised the extent of violence,

making terrorism appear the norm. It also suggests that ISIS was aligned with Islam and Muslims to create a negative perception of Islam in the world.

6. CONCLUSION

The present study aimed to contribute to the current knowledge of language and media discourse. The originality of this article can be summarised as follows. First, this is the first study that has investigated bilingual media reports, combining Arab media (*Al Jazeera* and *Al Arabiya* Arabic, and *Al Jazeera* and *Al Arabiya* English) and Western media (BBC and CNN in English) with DNVA analysis. The second significant contribution concerns the selection of the Libyan revolution outcomes. The focus was on the complex conflict that became an intricate, multi-layered civil war, with multiple sets of ideologies playing out in the background, which transformed into terrorism in the representation of the media. Other contributions of this study concern the methodological innovation. We not only applied a collocation analysis to retrieve the story contents within the studied media, but we also integrated the method of corpus techniques with DNVA. The former showed that the different media sets follow similar directions when reporting on the events and the latter explored news values constructed around the Libyan situation after the 2011 revolution with the analysis of keywords, collocations and concordances to provide significant results that emphasised NEGATIVITY and ELITENESS. Thus, it can be clearly stated that both Arab and Western media persistently reported the clashes between different Libyan factions during the years under investigation, as the Libyan situation worsened and turned into terrorism.

The media analysed here, with their violent and brutal discourse, tends only to show that Libya is living on the brink of collapse. In this sense, the current study shows how the Libyan civil war also transformed into terrorism in the representation of the media at a slow pace in 2013, but that it dominated the findings in 2015.

To sum up, we believe that further research can be conducted to examine local networks to understand the role of the media in framing world events, both politically and socially, in different cultural contexts. Also, we believe that the comparison between the media reports of violence and the discourse of terrorist groups can shed light on the way the media uses a similar discourse of violence to these groups and thus helps to promote the image of instability in the countries in conflict.

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