Critical Discourse Analysis of Attributive Words Used with the word Muslim: A Corpus Based Study

Asma Iqbal (Correspondence author)
E-mail: asmaiqbal036@gmail.com

Malik Haqnawaz Danish
E-mail: dani_malik@hotmail.com

Farah Iqbal
E-mail: Farahiqbal43@gmail.com

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Abstract

This study will examine all the attributive words with the word ‘Muslim’ in the time magazine corpus. This study will basically focus on the choice of attributive words which time magazine used for the Muslims. Language is a discourse so the study of attributive words from the time magazines corpus is a type of media discourse. The critical discourse analysis explores all those social aspects which analyze power, ideology and the interaction of language in various contexts. This analysis is based on Fairclough's three dimensional models which show the ideology of the Americans about the Muslims and only the use of vocabulary has been analyzed under the dimension of textual analysis.

The results show various approaches of the Americans towards the Muslims and which type of thinking is emerging in the society about the Muslims. The study will also explore that how various authors of newspaper use specific attributive words to highlight the image of the Muslims through various attributive words to control the mind of the readers and maintain power in the whole world. Ten words are analyzed having maximum frequency in 1990s TIME MAGAZINE corpus. In time magazine 1990's corpus, it has been proved that how diplomatically they present the Muslim and emerge a hidden negative discourse in the society about Muslims.

Keywords: Time magazine corpus, CDA, Textual analysis, Attributive words, Corpus, Fairclough’s three dimensional model of analysis
1. Introduction

CDA critical discourse analysis discipline is considered one of the major disciplines to analyze any text critically within the realm of critical Linguistics. CDA is basically used to evaluate the dominant power and social relationship between different text and states. We can also check the biases of any society about another society or nation if we critically analyze the text or any written corpus of the societies.

The present study will critically analyze all the adjectives present in the time magazine corpus with the word Muslim. In this study, we analyze the concept of the Muslims in the American society that what they think about the Muslims and how they present the Muslims through their electronic media in front of the common man and other nation.

In this study, CDA will analyze the dominance inequality of the time magazine corpus about the Muslims and also explore the biasness and discursive aspects of power in the time magazine corpus about the Muslims.

Fairclough, Vandijk, Huckins, and so many other theorists provide their models to critically analyze the written as well as spoken text. By using these models we can critically analyze the text and explore all the hidden features of the data and study or critically analyze the present discourse of the society if we use these models to study any phenomenon we can explore the hidden goals and agendas of the authors regarding their text.

In CDA, we have two approaches; the modern and the traditional. The people who belong to the traditional school of thought can take Language as a description and the people who belong to the modern school of thought believe that the different discourses have the quality of specialist to reconstruct the reality of the society or the social norms (Jorkinen et al. 1993). Fairclough who is considered one of the pioneers of the CDA have firmly believe that all the social phenomena or social norms which are present in any society are socially constructed.

2. Hypothesis

Time magazine uses negative attributive words more with the Muslim or even if they use positive words, it also reflects the negativism of that society about the Muslim community.

3. Literature Review

The Corpus Linguistics is not a new methodology which we adopt to collect data so many researches were done by using corpus linguistics as a tool of data collection. Many disciplines were applied after collecting the corpus in the relevant field.

The present study, which will mainly focus on the critical analysis of adjectives by using Fairclough’s three dimensional model which the authors of time magazine used with the word ‘Muslim’.

According to (Van Djik 1993b:131) CL and CDA is “a shared perspective on doing linguistics semiotics or discourse analysis. Habermas, (1977) claims “any language is used for social force and domination. And being researchers, we totally agree with this point of view where ever we lived or whatever Language we used. it legitimizes our relations and
3.1 Fairclough CDA Model

For the last few decades Fairclough’s model and approach is considered the most important and the center of the CDA. He is the pioneer of CDA and gave so many approaches and theories regarding CDA he called his earlier approaches regarding discourse and Language called critical study of Language (1989, p. 5). He defines the aim of his this approach “a beneficence to the widespread lift of consciousness of exploratory social affiliations and relations by locus of language”(Fairclough,1989).

Fairclough explains the importance of this disciplines in his (1985, 1989, 1993), works and he uses CDA to as an approach to study domination as a resource in struggles, social change, against exploitation and cultural change. In his approaches, he mainly focuses on the study of institutional discourse and power.

Fairclough (1989, 1995) gave his model for CDA analysis and this model consists of three dimensions all these dimensions are interrelated with each other.

a- The target of analysis (visual, verbal and visual texts)

b-The methodology on the basis of which we can receive and produce text (viewing/speaking/listening/ writing/ reading/designing ) by creature aspect.

c- All the conditions which are the key aspects of the socio-historical conditions and carry out these formations.

Fairclough gave three aspects to critically analyze any text

a- Text analysis (description)

b- Processing analysis(interpretation)

c- Social analysis (explanation).

Chouliaraki & Fairclough (1999) said that the communicative interaction according to the CDA shows the linguistics and semiotic features on conversations and interactions that how they are systematically connected with one and other and what's going on linguistically or thematically in a society.

Fairclough three dimensional model of analysis is very much useful not only in linguistics, but also in other fields like semiotics and so many other disciplines if we want to critically analyze any text either its spoken or written

4. Research Questions

1) How evaluative attributive words are used in the time magazine corpus about the Muslims?

2) What is the social and historical perspective of Americans about the Muslims on the basis of which they use all these attributive words?
3) What type of attributive words is excessively used for the Muslims?

5. Research Objectives

The study aims at analyzing the use of adjectives with the Muslims. The present study will explore the image of the Muslims in American world and how they establish a new discourse about the Muslims in the whole world by using media and other resources.

The study will also explore the common approach of the American society about the Muslims and their biasness. The critical discourse analysis approach on the usage of adjectives will also show the mentality of the American society and will help Muslim to establish a new discourse about them in a society after knowing the critical perspectives of those adjectives which American society used for them.

6. Research Methodology

To investigate our null hypothesis, we need to analyze the attributive words which time magazine corpus used with the word ‘Muslim’. To analyze those words, first we cite them on the site of time magazine.

The present study is a mixture of both qualitative and quantitative studies so fall into the realm of mixed method research. All the attributive words of 1990s corpus are first analyzed quantitatively and then qualitatively. To investigate our null hypothesis, the most frequently used ten attributive words are selected.

Fairclough’s three dimensional model of analysis has been selected and only one dimension i-e textual analysis is done and the main focus was on the use of vocabulary and background reasons behind the selection of that vocabulary other two dimensions of Fairclough’s model is not applied in this analysis.

The specific features which I have selected before the selection of words are: key word Muslim Collocates [1] before & [0] after having the POS list of Adj. all and use the format of list to investigate these features.

Only textual features have been studied specially the choice of vocabulary is critically analyzed in this study.

7. Delimitations of the Study

Time magazine online corpus is only used for analysis

Most frequently 15 words were used for analysis

Only 1990s corpus is selected for analysis.
8. Data

Quantitative sheet of the attributives words taken from the time magazine corpus on line tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. no</th>
<th>Attributive words</th>
<th>frequency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SHI'ITE</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DEVOUT</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10</td>
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</table>

The qualitative data for analysis is shown in appendix.

9. Analysis

9.1 Textual Analysis

The times magazine corpus is when analyzed to study the features of text the very first attributive word which is used with the word Muslim is fundamentalist and is used in a context to deviate the Muslims. The time magazine uses this word to symbolize the two pictures of the same religion in such a way that no one can understand how they critically and immorally use this word for the whole community of the Muslims. As they said the criminal acts of Muslims are even not acceptable to the other Muslim community. And this word is used for the Muslims in 1990s time magazine corpus six times, which also shows the thinking of that specific community about the Muslims. And they spread conspiracy between the two societies having the same religious views as shown in the example

“Even the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, while calling the coalition's bombing of civilians a "heinous crime,“

Other examples of the same word are shown in appendix 1 that how time magazine spread conspiracy among the two different societies of the same religion.

Fairclough in his CDA approach in 1992 talks about the use of vocabulary that how different discourses are emerges in the society through Language.

SHI'ITE as an attributive word is also used twelve times in 1990s to show the various sects of Muslim and they also use this word to show how one sect can attract the followers of other sects, they also said in this corpus how the human rights advocates were punished under the
rule of Saddam (Iraq president) who belongs to SUNNI sect. And how ballpark is under this sect and the sub sect under the SHIITTE who control it, they use the word of hazibullah and translate it as “party of GOD” to spread the negativism in the society. They also use some ridiculous words for this sect specially in Iraq and it also shows their interests toward that era because most of the time when they use this word, they use it within the reference of Iraq and Iraq as the ridiculous group and they show their extremely negative intentions towards Iraq to set negative discourse about Iraq in the society and later on what they did with Iraq is in . in the chronicles of the history.

“Robert Oppenheimer. Ja'afer, a Shi'ite Muslim, is an outspoken human-rights advocate who has been jailed for his protests against Saddam Hussein's oppression”

And here in example and other so many examples of this word, it is clear that they are trying to show their positive intentions toward on community and negative intentions toward 2nd community and how they themselves present the best human rights leader in front of one community. Other examples are shown in appendix II

BOSNIAN, Saudi, southern and eastern are also used in this corpus as a adjectives which point out the various sub communities of Muslims and they point out various features of these communities in that corpus as they said or point out Bosnian and Serbian war all the time in this corpus whenever they mention the word BOSNIAN in the corpus and they also show their hidden purpose or intentions. It also shows their diplomatic nature in this statement as they show themselves the humanity savers in case of BOSNIAN but humanity killers in case of Serbia as mention below:

“We should be protect innocent Serb civilians just as we should protect the Bosnian Muslim civilians, no more no less. If not, the U.S. may someday be accused of crime against humanity”

They use the word Saudi and show their positive intentions towards them by saving it from the pointer sisters troops, but on the other hand, they helped Israel in destructing the Muslims In world war II.

The attributive word “Devout” is also used as a satire on the Muslims and all those acts are pointed out which don't deserve that word, but they use it to degrade the Muslims. They use this word as an irony on the Muslims as they discuss bomb attacks and other ridiculous activities with reference to the Muslims and use this word as an adjective to make their statement ironical as shown in the examples

“a devout Muslim who came to America to work hard and raise a family. To prosecutors, he is a religious extremist who helped bomb the World Trade Center.”

The word black is used again and again by Muslim which also present the concept of otherness which was very common at that time that was all the nations to whom they want to degrade call them others as also shown in the examples

“A Black Muslim spews bigotry and, weeks later, is condemned” “Black Muslim leader”
In their corpus where they use the word Black they must mention any higher authority of the Muslim community and present threat that we are inferiors as its a set norm or theory of that community that blacks and others are inferior and they use these words to show others inferior and establish a discourse of superiority in society. Other examples are shown in Appendix.

The word militant is normally used to show the forces of the Muslims and they present themselves and other nations like Israel innocent without pointing their own intentions and show Muslims as a terrorists who attacked without any reason.

   “the militant Muslim group that has been mounting armed attacks in Israel and the occupied territories”

Another attributive word like religious is also shown in a negative manner and they think the Muslims rules and regulation to spend life or law of Muslims have immodesty and impiety. Without knowing the reality of a religion, they themselves propagate it in such a ways that people even who are interested in this religion felt fearful and they establish a discourse in a society about Muslim community being ridiculous according to their subjective opinion without investigating the reality as shown in the example below:

   “Muslim religious laws against impiety and immodesty”

Extremist is also used with the word Muslim to show their negative intentions about the religious concepts of the Muslims and they called Muslims a radical community and make fun of the Muslims religious concepts as shown in the Example below:

   “members of Islamic Jihad, an extremist Muslim fundamentalist group”

Large is another attributive word used in TIME MAGAZINE and here they use this world in a sense to present the large population of Muslim and their government that they Ban Star channel that the huge population of the Muslim must avoid those activities which these channels propogate all the time without knowing the intentions of whole community. In this way, they present Islam and government as a ridiculous agents of the society without knowing the true intentions of religions and Muslim Leaders.

   “several Asian governments have launched campaigns to prevent STAR from introducing foreign programming and ideas to people long insulated by state- run TV. The government of Malaysia has announced a ban on private dishes, to protect its large Muslim population from contagion by "undesirable values”.”

Most of the other adjectives which are used in the time magazine corpus point out the negative pictures of the Muslim community and their present Muslims as terrorists and extremists, which are highly involved in sectarian war and that magazine doesn't show their direct intentions about any community, but there is a hidden discourse established by them using so many adjectives in a negative sense which a common or layman can't understand.

10. Conclusion

Corpus Linguistics is a major discipline in Linguistic to collect the data for analysis and CDA
is one of the major disciplines through which we can analyze any text on the basis of the models which fall into the realm of the CDA.

In this Analysis, we investigated all those features which are specially about the choice of vocabulary that the various attributive words for the Muslims are used in a negative sense to propagate the negative concept of the Muslim community in front of the whole world. They establish a negative discourse in a society by using negative attributes in their print media.

This study also presents their bias thinking about the Muslims and it also shows their internal fear of the Muslims. They use evaluative attributive words without evaluating the Muslims or Muslims communities which also present their limited and conservative approach towards the Muslims.

References


Appendix

Appendix 1.
Appendix 2.

Appendix 3.

Appendix 4.

Appendix 5.
Appendix 6.

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Appendix 10.

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<td>The government of Mijestri has announced a ban on private claims, to protect its large Muslim population from confusion by undesirable values. A committee appointed by the government.</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>In recent weeks, few had thought it possible that any of its once large Muslim population could have survived in Guchen. During the long siege of Sarajevo, this</td>
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