

**A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Representation of Floyd
Protests in Three Electronic Newspapers**

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Abstract

The present study aims at exploring in what way transitivity, which is a Critical Discourse Analysis tool, is applied to show the representation of George Floyd protests in three electronic newspapers. The data consists of five online articles from each newspaper published on the official websites of the selected newspapers. Since verbal and material processes are common in any protests, the research focuses on investigating the verbal and material processes in the three electronic newspapers in order to reflect their ideologies. The three newspapers represent different backgrounds. The electronic newspapers are "The Guardian", "Al-Ahram Weekly" and "USA today". The first newspaper is an example of a European newspaper. The second newspaper is an example of a Middle East newspaper. The third one is an example of an American Newspaper. Therefore, the findings of this research show that the three newspapers focus on the verbal processes rather than the material processes.

Keywords: transitivity analysis - material processes - verbal processes - electronic newspapers - George Floyd American protests

تحليل خطاب نقدي لتمثيل احتجاجات فلويد في ثلاث صحف إلكترونية

تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى استكشاف الطريقة التي يتم بها تطبيق التحولات ، وهي أداة لتحليل الخطاب النقدي ، لإظهار تمثيل احتجاجات جورج فلويد في ثلاث صحف إلكترونية. تتكون البيانات من خمسة مقالات على الإنترنت من كل صحيفة منشورة على المواقع الرسمية للصحف المختارة. بما أن العمليات اللفظية والمادية شائعة في أي احتجاجات ، فإن البحث يركز على التحقيق في العمليات اللفظية والمادية في الصحف الإلكترونية الثلاث من أجل عكس أيديولوجياتهم. تمثل الصحف الثلاث خلفيات مختلفة. والصحف الإلكترونية هي "الجارديان" و "الأهرام ويكلي" و "يو إس إيه توداي". الصحيفة الأولى هي مثال لصحيفة أوروبية. الصحيفة الثانية هي مثال لصحيفة الشرق الأوسط. الثالث هو مثال لصحيفة أمريكية. لذلك ، تظهر نتائج هذا البحث أن الصحف الثلاث تركز على العمليات اللفظية بدلاً من العمليات المادية.

A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Representation of Floyd Protests in Three Electronic Newspapers

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1. Introduction

George Floyd protests started as a reaction to the killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man who died during an arrest after Derek Chauvin, a Minneapolis Police Department officer, knelt on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes as three other officers looked on. The George Floyd protests are a progressing arrangement which started in Minneapolis in the United States on May 26, 2020. At the beginning, protests began peacefully as local protests in Minneapolis before quickly spreading worldwide in over 60 countries in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Afterwards, over 2,000 cities and towns in the United States and around the world watched protests and demonstrations as of June 13, and protests extended for a fourth week after Floyd's death in many cities. Whereas most of the protests were peaceful, demonstrations in some cities descended into riots and widespread robbery, with more being marked by street clashes and police brutality, notably against peaceful protesters and reporters. As a result, a minimum of 200 cities within the U.S. obliged curfews by June 3, whereas at least over 30 states and Washington, D.C, activated over 62,000 National Guard personnel because of the mass unrest. Then, by June 3, a minimum of 11,000 people had been arrested, as well as the four police cops involved in the arrest which led to Floyd's death. Therefore, the protests led to several legislative proposals on federal, state and municipal levels to combat police misconduct, systemic racism, qualified immunity and police brutality in the United States, while the Trump administration drew widespread criticism for its hardline, militarized response and aggressive rhetoric. The protests were conjointly related to the removal and destruction of monuments and statues throughout the country and internationally, such as J. E. B. Stuart Monument in Virginia, the statue of Christopher Columbus at the Minnesota State Capitol, and the Albert Pike Memorial in Washington, D.C.

1.1 The Aim and Significance of the Study

Thornborrow says that "[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 the internet as it spreads like wildfire recently. Moreover,

one of the advantages of e-papers is that they report news a lot faster than regular newspapers. Therefore, the aim of this study is to examine how the George Floyd protests in the US are represented in foreign electronic newspapers: "The Guardian", "Al Ahram Weekly" and "USA today". The first newspaper is an example of a European newspaper. The second newspaper is an example of a Middle East newspaper. The third one is an example of an American Newspaper. In addition, transitivity analysis tools are applied to show the representation of the recent American protests in these newspapers in order to reflect upon their perspectives.

1.2 Research Question

The study aims at answering the following research question:

How does transitivity analysis reflect the representation of George Floyd protests in electronic newspapers?

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Critical Discourse Analysis Overview

In the early 1990s, many scholars of CDA started to emerge. Then, they met at the University of Amsterdam to discuss methods and theories of CDA. The scholars are Teun van Dijk, Norman Fairclough, Gunther Kress, Theo Van Leeuwen and Ruth Wodak (Wodak & Myer, 2001, p.4). As for Fairclough (2013), he believes that CDA has three aspects: relational, dialectical, and transdisciplinary. The relational deals with social relations, rather than communities and individuals, 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 as they are unlike each other, for example, the relation between power and discourse. In addition, the relationship between the power of people who have authority and the people who do not have authority is rational. Therefore, social processes include several factors which are 'power' and 'discourse'. Moreover, it is an interdisciplinary way of analyzing the text. Fairclough prefers to describe it as a 'transdisciplinary' which means that the dialogue in the text is considered as a source of theoretical and methodological developments within disciplines and frameworks. He indicates 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 the research questions. As a result, the body of the research is constructed in a transdisciplinary way according to the categories and relations between theories of discourse (pp. 4-5).

Fairclough (2013) introduces some points that differentiate CDA from other research and analysis. First, it analyses discourse, especially texts. In addition, it analyses relations between discourse and elements of social process on the systematic transdisciplinary analysis level. Secondly, it provides feedback on discourse and includes forms of systematic analysis of texts. Thirdly, it is descriptive as well as normative as it deals with faults in society according to their discursive aspects and tries to find out methods to correct or modify them (pp.10-11).

As for van Dijk, he defines CDA 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)

2.2.1 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). He asserts "Ours is the Truth, and Their is Ideology" (1998, p.2); thus, it is crucial, on the analytical and theoretical level, to move beyond the common (Sunderlin, 2003, p.16).

Some Critical Discourse analysts agree that certain groups with social power get benefits from ideologies. In addition, events, practices, and behaviors are legitimate and common-sense. Social power belongs to those who have social resources like education, knowledge, and wealth. In contrast to what is mentioned, analysts believe that power and dominance are obtained through different 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).

2.2.2 Discrimination in Discourse

Racism is both a social practice and an ideology. It is represented through discourse. According to discourse analysts, 'discursive events' include discriminatory linguistic features in its social, political, and historical contexts. In order to criticize and argue against racist opinions, critical discourse analysts should follow two procedures. First, they

should describe, socio-diagnostically, the anti-racist discursive practices and their efficiency or inefficiency. Second, if they want to engage in political actions and face discrimination, they may participate in civil society and set criticism which defends anti-racist policy (Reisigl & Wodak, 2001, pp.1-2).

2.2.3 Transitivity

Halliday (1994) mentions that there are three major types of process in transitivity: material, mental and relational. Moreover, there are other types which are categorized as processes in transitivity. These processes are categorized as intermediate between the main types. On one hand, in the middle between material and mental there is the behavioral process that presents the inner intentions, consciousness and physiological states. On the other hand, in the middle between mental and rational there is the verbal process which reflects consciousness in language. In addition, in the middle between relational and material there is the existential process which indicates that everything is recognized to be or to exist or to happen (p.107).

3. Methodology

3.1 Data and data Collection

The main source of the present study is taken from online newspapers. The researcher chose these online newspapers as they represent different backgrounds. The researcher chose "The Guardian" as it is ranked as a leading national newspaper in the UK as indicated in the following figure (Top national newspapers ranked by reach UK 2014 | statistic, 2014). In addition, the researcher chose "USA Today" as it is ranked as from 2014 top media outlets as shown in the following figure (2014 Top Media Outlets, 2014). The articles are selected from a time period between May 2020 and September 2020 to find out the representation of the George Floyd protests in the US in online newspapers of different backgrounds. Accordingly, the data is collected from "The Guardian" which is a British online newspaper, "Al Ahram Weekly" which a Middle East newspaper and "USA Today" which is an American online newspaper. Thus, the data consists of 15 online articles published on "The Guardian", "Al Ahram Weekly" and "USA Today". The study analyzes 5 articles from each newspaper from May 2020 to September 2020. In the present study, the researcher goes through two main procedures. First, the researcher starts by saving the articles from the websites of these newspapers. Then, the researcher applies CDA tool: transitivity.

4. Analysis

4.1 Transitivity Analysis

The selection of different types of processes and the placement of participants and circumstances reflects the writers' or speakers' inclination, ideology and social and historical context. According to Fairclough (1992), "system of transitivity makes options available, and which process type is chosen to signify a real process may be of cultural, political or ideological significance" (p.180).

Table 1. Verbal Processes in Al-Ahram Weekly

No.	Sayer	Verbal process	Verbiage	Source
1	many of the protesters	call	"Look in the mirror"	Article 1
2	Marvin Rees (who is of African descent)	said	"I think circumstances came to a head and people felt the need to take the statue down,"	Article 1
3	Marvin Rees (who is of African descent)	said	"I can't and won't pretend the statue of a slave trader in a city I was born and grew up in wasn't an affront to me and people like me."	Article 1
4	Marvin Rees (who is of African descent)	said	"People in Bristol who don't want that statue in the middle of the city came together, and it is my job to unite, hear those voices, and hold those truths together for people for whom that statue is a personal affront,"	Article 1
5	British historian David Olusoga	said	"removing statues is not erasing history. Statues are not the mechanisms by which we understand history. We learn history through museums, books and television programmes,"	Article 1
6	Olusoga	told the BBC	"Statues are not about remembering history"	Article 1

No.	Sayer	Verbal process	Verbiage	Source
7	The University	said	that the statue would stay, with modifications that “draw attention to this history [and] do justice to the complexity of the debate.”	Article 1
8	Matt Hancock, the health secretary,	said	“I think, thankfully, that this is all based in response to events in America rather than here, but we also must continue the drive here for tolerance and genuine equality of opportunity,”	Article 1
9	Matt Hancock, the health secretary,	said	“I don’t, but I do think there’s injustice that needs to be tackled, and I’ve spent my political life fighting for equality.”	Article 1
10	Dawn Butler (a former Labour Party minister for young people)	said	suggestions that the protests largely related to America were a sign that the government was “again not listening and shows no commitment to resolving the issues of racism in our own country.”	Article 1
11	Butler (the first black woman to speak at the dispatch box in the House of Commons)	said	“people are angry in the UK for many reasons.”	Article 1
12	Trump	said	that there are groups manipulating the situation, not in solidarity with Floyd but for electoral reasons.	Article 2
13	prominent	stated	“Defense movements for	Article 2

No.	Sayer	Verbal process	Verbiage	Source
	German thinker Ulrich Beck		all of civil society are the lawyers, creative people and judges of values and standards.”	
14	The US Foreign Policy magazine	said	a central thread linked the unrest across the US with recent upheavals in the Middle East, being the basic demands of the protesters.	Article 3
15	Yassin Alaa	told the French news agency AFP	“I think what the Americans are doing is brave, and they should be angry, but rioting is not the solution,”	Article 3
16	Democrat House Speaker Nancy Pelosi	said	“Monuments to men who advocated cruelty and barbarism to achieve such a plainly racist end are a grotesque affront to the ideals of democracy and freedom.”	Article 4
17	Democrat House Speaker Nancy Pelosi	added	that statues of men who participated in a failed secession war during the Civil War must be removed.	Article 4
18	Biden	said	“It was an honour to compete alongside one of the most talented groups of candidates.”	Article 5

While in all the verbal processes focus the sayers are the politicians, only one verbal process focuses on the protesters as sayer. Using the verbal processes, the writers show how the protesters are viewed from different perspectives.

Table 2. Material Processes in Al-Ahram Weekly

No.	Actor	Material process	Goal	Circumstance	Source
1	Demonstrators	attached	ropes	to the statue before pulling it down	Article 1
2	Peaceful protests	drew doubt	over the rule of law and	in the beginning	Article 2

No.	Actor	Material process	Goal	Circumstance	Source
			respect for due process		
3	some of the protesters	still camping	out	in Baghdad's Tahrir Square	Article 3
4	have been met	the protesters	with the violence in US cities	Article 3
5	protests	have engulfed	cities	in Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon and Sudan	Article 3
6	the US protests	had brought	a similarity with the 2011 Arab uprisings	to the minds of many Americans and people around the world	Article 3
7	protests	have spread	over US police racism and racial inequality	to more than 140 American cities in the days since the death of Floyd	Article 3
8	the US protests	will be	a catalyst for change	at home	Article 3
9	these protests	do not threaten	the safety of Americans	in a pandemic	Article 4
10	angry protesters and activists	demand	autonomy for their cities or states	on social media	Article 4
11	Seattle protesters	made	the demand	recently in protest over the murder of George Floyd last month	Article 4
12	anti-racism protests	are embarrassing		for him	Article 5

In the previous table, the material processes show that the protesters are engaged as actors who are involved and responsible for their own doings. Therefore, the protesters are the actors of all the previous material processes. The verbs in these material processes show how the protesters are effective. In Example 4, protestors are the goals who are affected by this negative process. Thus, in this specific example the writer chooses to hide the actor of the action.

Table 3. Verbal Processes in The Guardian

No.	Sayer	Verbal process	Verbiage	Source
1	Martin Luther King	stated	A riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear?	Article 2
2	Mayor Jacob Frey	told	“I do not support the full abolition of the police department,”	Article 3
3	protesters	responded	“Go home, Jacob, go home”	Article 3
4	Demonstrators	chanted	“get off our necks”	Article 3
5	Jacquelyn Martell (one of the protest organizers)	said	“Harlem is extremely significant when it comes to talking about the disproportionate impact on black and brown communities of so many things – for example, Covid-19 and police surveillance,”	Article 3
6	the fifth-year safety Justin Simmons	told	“Your voice is heavy, and it matters,”	Article 3
7	the Portland mayor, Ted Wheeler	said	“Our community has serious concerns about the use of CS gas for crowd management, particularly during a time when we’re battling a pandemic,”	Article 3
8	Demonstrators	chanted	“no justice, no peace”	Article 3
9	prosecutors	said	Two officers in Buffalo, Robert McCabe and Aaron Torgalski, were charged with assault on Saturday	Article 3
10	US congresswoman Ilhan Omar	told	“The Minneapolis police department is rotten to the root,”	Article 3
11	Trump	said	“Big crowd, professionally organized, but nobody came close to breaching the fence. If they had they would have been greeted with the most vicious dogs, and most ominous weapons, I	Article 4

No.	Sayer	Verbal process	Verbiage	Source
			have ever seen,”	
12	Ted Wheeler	said	citizens must stay home between 8pm and 6am, starting immediately.	Article 4
13	Governor Tim Walz	told	“Quite candidly, right now, we do not have the numbers,”	Article 4
14	the city police chief, Medaria Arradondo	said	“We will not have another repeat of what happened at the third precinct,”	Article 4
15	Sergio Pineda	said	“It’s all Latino businesses around here. I don’t support what the cops did, but I don’t support what’s going on,”	Article 4
16	Erika Shields, Atlanta’s police chief	said	Protesters were “understandably upset” and that the country faces a “recurring narrative” of black men being killed.	Article 4
17	Gwen Carr, Garner’s mother	said	“They have to stop coming into our neighbourhoods and brutalising, terrorising, murdering,”	Article 4
18	Hundreds of protesters	chanting	“Fuck the police,” and “No justice, no peace.”	Article 4
19	Kimberly Sue, a physician	said	“Police violence is one of the biggest health issues in our country,”	Article 4
20	1,600 protesters	chanting	“Throw him out”	Article 5
21	demonstrators	shouted	“Get off our necks” and “Racism is America’s original sin”	Article 5
22	Obama	said	“As scary and uncertain these times may be, they are also a wake-up call. And they’re an incredible opportunity for your generation,”	Article 5
23	The Minneapolis city council president, Lisa Bender,	said	“In Minneapolis and in cities across the United States, it is clear that our system of policing is not keeping our communities safe,”	Article 5

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No.	Sayer	Verbal process	Verbiage	Source
24	Colin Powell, a key ally of the most recent Republican president George W Bush	told	Trump had “drifted away from the US constitution”	Article 5
25	Cory Booker, the Democratic senator and former presidential candidate	told	“we are over-policed as a society”	Article 5
26	the attorney general, Bill Barr	said	“I think there’s racism in the United States still but I don’t think that the law enforcement system is systemically racist,”	Article 5

(i) **The Guardian adapted 26 verbal processes in 5 articles. Only 7 of them represent the protesters' "chanting" and "shouting". However, the rest of the verbal processes reflect the point of views of the politicians and citizens about the protests and the protesters.**

(ii)

(iii) **Table 4. Material processes in The Guardian**

No.	Actor	Material process	Goal	Circumstance	Source
1	protests	are still continuing		after three heady weeks of black lives mattering	Article 1
2	The uprising	crossed	borders and language barriers		Article 1
3	protests	spread		throughout the country	Article 2
4	demonstrators	painted	an additional message	on the streets	Article 3
5	Thousands of demonstrators	flooded on	to San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge	with the acquiescence of authorities	Article 3
6	Protesters	threw	bricks and bottles		Article 4

No.	Actor	Material process	Goal	Circumstance	Source
7	protesters	blocked	highways		Article 4
8	Protesters	used	barricades	to break police vehicle windshields	Article 4
9	Hundreds of the protesters	confronted	police	outside CNN headquarters	Article 4
10	protesters	destroyed	police vehicles		Article 4
11	Hundreds of protesters	gathered	at Barclays Center in Brooklyn	on Friday evening	Article 4
12	George Floyd protests	enter	third week		Article 5
13	protests	appeared	to reflect a shifting mood	across the country	Article 5
14	Thousands of marchers	gathered	close to the White House	on Sunday afternoon	Article 5
15	protesters	stopped		outside Trump International Hotel in Manhattan	Article 5
16	protests and rallies	spread	to numerous smaller towns	in the US	Article 5
17	dozens of protesters	rallied	carrying Black Lives Matter placards		Article 5
18	sizable protests	passed largely		in cities	Article 5
19	protesters	toppled	a statue		Article 5

According to table 4, the material processes show the protesters as the actors of all the actions of the above mentioned material processes. Verbs like "blocked", "confronted" and "destroyed" give the reader a negative impression about the protesters. In other words, they are used to show a negative representation of the protesters who are the doers of these actions.

Table 5. Verbal Processes in USA Today

No.	Sayer	Verbal process	Verbiage	Source
1	Hillary Clinton	told	what they needed to hear	Article 1
2	The majority of Democrats	say	their top concern is COVID-19	Article 2
3	almost two in three (63%) Americans	say	they believe assaults on police officers have gotten worse in the past six months	Article 2
4	more than the 49%	say	assaults by police officers has gotten worse	Article 2
5	Cornelia Cheatham, of Kyle, Texas	says	she doesn't feel safe in Trump's America	Article 2
6	Dawn Tuller, 42, of Hebron, Nebraska	says	that although she doesn't know exactly what the president has done to address the protests, she agrees with his messaging	Article 2
7	Six in 10 Americans	say	the mainstream media has made the protests more dangerous	Article 2
8	A majority of Americans	say	antifa (53%), conservative militias (52%) and conservative media (51%) contribute to protests becoming more dangerous	Article 2
9	Less than one-third (29%)	say	Biden has made the protests more dangerous	Article 2
10	Among Republicans, 81%	say	the Black Lives Matter movement makes protests more dangerous	Article 2
11	72% of Democrats	say	the same is true about conservative militias	Article 2
12	Almost half, 44%	say	they "strongly" oppose it	Article 3
13	Aaron Jones, 40, a Republican from Katy, Texas	says	"That was a bad call,"	Article 3
14	Jane Gillespie, 26, a	says	"That's kind of sad that force had to be used,"	Article 3

No.	Sayer	Verbal process	Verbiage	Source
	Republican from Glendale, Arizona			
15	Thirty-eight percent of Americans	say	they trust Trump to promote justice and equal treatment for people of all races	Article 3
16	Brittany Baca, 31, a Democrat from Oregon City	says	"I think it speaks volumes that the (former) presidents have kind of unified and that so much of the country is unified in its feeling,"	Article 3
17	Baca, the daughter of a police officer	says	"It just breaks our hearts to hear what's going on in the country,"	Article 3
18	Three-fourths of Democrats, 73%	say	the protests after Floyd's death have been mostly peaceful	Article 3
19	54% majority of Republicans	say	they have been mostly violent	Article 3
20	Two-thirds of Democrats	say	the right to protest is the most important thing to ensure, "even if it means there are some incidents of violence"	Article 3
21	Two-thirds of Republicans	say	law and order is the most important thing to ensure, "even if it means limiting peaceful protests."	Article 3
22	Cliff Young, president of Ipsos	says	"Views toward George Floyd's killing and the subsequent protests tell a tale of two Americas,"	Article 3
23	Sixty percent	say	Floyd was murdered	Article 3
24	just 2%	say	the police officer "did nothing wrong"	Article 3
25	Maira Nigam, 62, a Democrat from Stamford	says	"So they still have hope. We'll see if that holds up."	Article 3
26	Taurice Bussey, a 25-year-old University of	said	"I would say it's a start,"	Article 4

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No.	Sayer	Verbal process	Verbiage	Source
	South Carolina graduate			
27	Nikki Bowdoin	said	“That’s just who I am.”	Article 4
28	Herold, the director of the Crowd Management Research Council	said	“Most demonstrations, most protests, are peaceful. Very few ever involve violence.”	Article 5
29	David Dulio, director of the Center for Civic Engagement at Oakland University	said	“If there was a rock-ribbed Republican area in Michigan, it’s West Michigan,”	Article 5
30	Jackson, of Ipsos	said	it's too early to tell whether the protests will lead to a boost in turnout this fall	Article 5
31	Terry Madonna, director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs	said	“We’re going through a period of tremendous change,”	Article 5

USA Today used 31 verbal processes in 5 articles. However, none of them represent the voice or the demands of the protesters. The sayers of all the verbal processes are American citizens and politicians. In addition, all the above mentioned verbiages are comments and opinions about the protesters and the protests.

Table 6. Material Processes in USA Today

No.	Actor	Material process	Goal	Circumstance	Source
1	George Floyd protests	reach	even small cities		Article 4
2	970 protests	had taken place		in about 400 cities	Article 5
3	protests	were occurring		on a given day	Article 5
4	protests	continue			Article 5
5	The protests in Lincoln and other parts of the state	may reflect	the growing diversity		Article 5
6	protests	began		in May	Article 5

USA Today has only 6 material processes in 5 articles. The actors of these 6 processes are the protesters.

5. Discussion

Table 7. Results of the Verbal and Material Processes Analysis

Name of the Newspaper	Verbal Processes	Material Processes
Al-Ahram Weekly	18 processes	12 processes
The Guardian	26 processes	19 processes
USA Today	31 processes	6 processes
Total	75 verbal processes	37 material processes

In this analysis, the potential participant roles the researcher focuses on are sayer, who is the doer of process, and verbiage. The whole verbal processes in the selected articles mainly serve as the description of the comments and points of view of some politicians. The reporter borrows those quotations to express his ideology. Thus, the choice of verbs in the verbal process can also indicate the writers’ attitude. The most common verb in the previous examples is “say” which reflects what politicians think about the protests and the protesters. Using the verbal processes, the writers show how the protesters are viewed from different perspectives.

Material processes are those of ‘doing’ whereby a person or thing does something which may, “in turn be performed by another person or thing” (Halliday, 1994: 110). In this part of the analysis, the researcher focuses on all the protesters’ material processes. Material processes show that the protesters are engaged as actors who are involved and responsible for their own doings. For example, the actors of the material processes in the three newspapers are peaceful protests, demonstrators, sizable protests, George Floyd protests, and US protests. Therefore, the protesters are the actors of all the previous material processes. The verbs in these material processes show how the protesters are effective and active.

Finally, it is obvious that the number of the verbal processes in the three newspapers outweighs the number of the material processes. In Table 7, it is clear that the three newspapers focus on the verbal processes rather than focusing on the material processes. In addition, USA Today newspaper focuses on the verbal processes more than the other two newspapers. This reflects its ideology towards focusing on the point of views of others rather than focusing on the actions of the protesters.

The results reflect that the three selected newspapers focus on the importance of the transitivity choices that have been made to represent the protests. Verbal processes interpret saying. Thus, the analysis highlights the consistency of mentioning and stating the opinions of people rather than the opinions of the protesters themselves. Moreover, the material processes in the three newspapers show the doers, who are

the protesters, as strong and active characters. However, they are less than the verbal processes. Finally, the analysis shows the degree to which transitivity patterns can contribute to the reader's interpretation of the participants and the events of a text. Therefore, transitivity can create unequal relations of power, revealing something about the writer's ideology.

6. Conclusion

There are various verbal and material processes emerged from the analysis. The total number of verbal processes in the three newspapers is 75 verbal processes, while the total number of the material processes is 37 material processes. Thus, the number of the verbal processes outweighs the number of the material processes. Therefore, results of the study indicate that verbal processes dominate the three selected newspapers. This shows that the main aim of the three newspapers is to mention the opinions and the comments of citizens and politicians about the events. The transitivity analysis revealed the underlying ideologies of each newspaper as they represent the protesters as active and responsible for their actions in the material processes. However, they pay more attention to the verbal processes. In Al Ahram Weekly, the focus of the verbal processes is the politicians' opinions which reflect the ideology of persuading the readers with such opinions. Al Ahram Weekly did not mention any of the protesters' chants during the protests. Similarly, The Guardian and USA Today focus on the ideology of convincing the readers with the different point of views about the protests rather than reflecting the real demands of the protests.

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