



**Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research**

**University of Diyala**

**College of Education for Humanities**

**Department of English**



# **A Critical Discourse Analysis of Arab Woman Image in English Media**

A Thesis

Submitted to the Council of the College of Education for Humanities /  
University of Diyala in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Degree of Master of Arts in English Language and Linguistics

*Submitted by*

**Omaima Hussein Ali**

*Supervised by*

**Prof. Ayad Hameed Mahmoud (Ph.D.)**

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Problem

Some controversy has often existed over the state of Arab woman in the view of the Western world. Earlier, some scholars attributed a negative image to the Arab woman in analogy with the image of Arab man. In this concern, Akram (2002:65) argues that the depictions of the Arab man inside the English media are common; he is “robed and turbaned, sinister and dangerous, engaged mainly in hijacking airplanes and blowing up public homes”. However, Arab society has recently witnessed vital changes especially after AS. Since then, Arab woman began to gain more rights like voting and car driving in the countries where such things were limited to man. Therefore, there is an obvious need to investigate the Western world’s present view of Arab woman and whether or not this view has changed into a positive one.

The problem addressed in this study can be represented by the answers to the following research questions.

1. How is Arab woman’s image portrayed in English media in general?
2. How is Arab woman’s image portrayed in British media?
3. How is Arab woman’s image portrayed in American media?
4. Is there a difference between British and American media in terms of the image of Arab woman?

## **1.2 The Aims**

This study aims at:

1. exploring through CDA the depiction of Arab woman in the English media in general,
2. exploring the depiction of Arab woman at Micro level (henceforth Mil) in British and American media,
3. finding out the ideologies associated with Arab woman in British and American media at Macro level (henceforth Mal), and
4. finding out the similarities and differences between British and American media in terms of their attitude towards Arab woman.

## **1.3 The Hypotheses**

It is hypothesised that:

1. The image of Arab woman in English media, in general, is positive.
2. The image of Arab woman in British media is positive at both Mil and Mal.
3. The image of Arab woman in American media is positive at both Mil and Mal.
4. There is no difference between British and American media in terms of the degree of their positive attitude towards Arab woman.

## **1.4 The Procedures**

To achieve the aims of the study and verify its hypotheses, the following steps will be followed:

1. presenting a theoretical framework of CDA including its principles, approaches and models of studying discourse,
2. selecting a sample of articles from English media discourse,

3. adopting a suitable model for the analysis of the selected data,
4. analysing the selected texts in the light of the adopted model and using suitable statistical tools, and
5. drawing conclusions based on the study findings, providing recommendations and suggestions for further research.

## **1.5 The Scope**

The present study is limited to:

1. The analysis of the Arab Muslim Women Images (henceforth AMWIs) in English discourse.
2. The articles published by one British newspaper, namely *The Independent* (henceforth IN), and two American magazines, namely *The Notion* and *The Christian Science Monitor* (henceforth CSM).
3. The articles published after AS up to 2019.
4. The adapted model of Wodak (2001) and van Dijk (2000).

## **1.6 The Value**

The findings of the study are hoped to be useful for those interested in linguistics in general and in CDA in particular. The findings can also be useful for the researchers in the area of sociolinguistics and cultural studies. The study can also be regarded as an area of interest for those interested in the connections between Arab Muslims and the West.