The current issue and full text archive of this journal is available on Emerald Insight at:
https://www.emerald.com/insight/2040-7149.htm

The representation of homosexuals in Arabic-language news outlets

Linda S. Al-Abbas
Department of English Language and Literature, Middle East University, Amman, Jordan, and
Ahmad S. Haider
Department of English Language and Translation, Applied Science Private University, Amman, Jordan

Received 30 May 2020
Revised 17 August 2020
2 September 2020
Accepted 3 September 2020

Abstract

Purpose – The purpose of this study is to examine the most frequent countries and prevalent discourses in the context of homosexuality in the headlines of Arabic-language media outlets.

Design/methodology/approach – This study combined both corpus linguistic (CL) quantitative and critical discourse analysis (CDA) qualitative approaches to analyse five thousand two hundred news headlines that were retrieved from the Factiva news database from 2010 to 2019.

Findings – There were six main categories of subjects covered by the media in the context of homosexuality, namely crime, extremist groups, legislation, authority figures and scandals, culture and countries. The analysis showed that the countries whose laws criminalize homosexuals were more frequent than those seen to be supportive of homosexuals. The findings revealed that homosexuals are under-covered in the Arab media, and whenever they are present in the news reports, they are depicted negatively.

Research limitations/implications – This study examined the representation of homosexuals in Arabic headlines from 2010 to 2019. Future researchers may investigate their construction in the body of the articles in different periods and languages.

Practical implications – The present research has implications regarding the necessity of objectivity in covering news about minority groups without being influenced by the stock of ideas circulating in the culture where media outlets report.

Social implications – The social implications include enhancing the principles and values of solidarity and respecting all groups in society.

Originality/value – Although there is considerable literature on the representation of homosexuals in media outlets, the number of articles that investigated the same concept in the Arab region is relatively limited to the best knowledge of the researchers. Therefore, this study can add great significance to existing knowledge as it tackles a limitedly investigated topic in the Arab world.

Keywords Homosexuals, News, Arabic language, Corpus linguistics, Discourse historical approach (DHA)

Paper type Research paper

Introduction

Media is the reflection of societies and what they constitute. It is mainly meant to make people aware of the current happenings. Since this is its central premise, it needs to represent all kinds of people in different situations as they make up the human life experience. Homosexuality is gradually increasing in some parts of the world, where it is becoming an acceptable practice. This entails that the presence of people with this sexual preference should not go neglected by media even if they make up only a small segment of the population.

Funding: Not applicable

Declarations: Not applicable

Compliance with ethical standards: This article does not contain any studies with human participants performed by any of the authors

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: An International Journal
© Emerald Publishing Limited
2040-7149
DOI 10.1108/EDI-05-2020-0130

Homosexuality was an unaccepted behaviour since ancient times. However, in the present era, attitudes are generally seen to be conflicting especially with the rise of right advocates and movements of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender). In some cultures, especially western, homosexuality is considered a variant but normal human sexual behaviour that is legally accepted in society. However, some other cultures view this behaviour as a deviation that is sanctioned and punished by imprisonment or even death. Connell (1997) links these differences in attitudes towards homosexuality to the degree of sexual freedom allowed in a given society. Western cultures are more sexually liberated than non-western, and this makes homosexual acts widely approved of by different countries such as the USA, UK, France and Germany. Most cultures view homosexuality in a religious context which seems to shape the public attitudes towards this behaviour. Hildebrandt (2015) states that countries dominated by mainline Protestant religions and Catholicism are liberal and more likely to approve of a same-sex relationship. In contrast, those dominated by Islam and Eastern Orthodoxy strongly condemn this act. He further adds that "countries with a Muslim tradition tend to criminalize both male and female homosexuality, while predominantly Christian societies tend to prohibit only sex between men" (Hildebrandt, 2015, p. 852). Asal *et al.* (2013) also highlight that in Islamic states and nations with Islam as the state religion bans are more frequent.

Despite the changing attitudes and increasing number of proponents of homosexuality, the social stigma attached to it still has profound roots among Muslims. It is unlikely to bring up the topic of homosexuality for discussion without a great deal of negativity surrounding it. More importantly, the media in these countries seem to be dominated by religious views and public attitudes when they reflect on news related to this topic. The governments themselves may censor the media in order not to violate religious sensibilities or promote views that are inconsistent with the conservative cultural values of these societies. Thus, news related to homosexuality may be kept to the minimum and is reported with extreme caution.

This study contributes to the growing body of research studies, which combine critical discourse analysis (CDA) with corpus linguistics (CL) by examining the discourses on homosexuality in a large corpus of headlines. CDA investigates the relationship between language, power, ideology and society (Van Dijk, 1998), taking the social, political and historical contexts into account (Wodak, 2001b). CDA is criticized for analysing small texts and "cherry-picking" of examples that suit the analysts' pre-existing beliefs and hypotheses (Koller and Mautner, 2004; Stubbs, 1997). CL is "the study of language based on examples of 'real-life' language use" (McEnery and Wilson, 2001, p. 1). CL is usually used to analyse large quantities of texts; however, it is criticized for paying little attention to the context (Widdowson, 2000). Common CL analytical techniques are frequency, clusters, concordance, collocation and keywords. Frequency is the count of how many times a word occurred in the corpus (Baker, 2010). "Clusters" technique is the frequency of multi-word units (Baker, 2010). Concordance or Key Word in Context (KWIC) examines the linguistic element (e.g. a word) by considering the words to the left and right (McEnery and Wilson, 2001). Collocation is "frequent co-occurrence" (Stubbs, 2001, p. 29). Keyness is the high frequency of words in the corpus under study when compared with a general (reference) corpus (Baker, 2004). The present study mainly uses the CL technique of frequency as it aims to investigate the most common discourses and frequent countries in the context of homosexuality in the headlines of Arabic-language media outlets. Carrying out a frequency analysis provides researchers with the focus of the corpus and reveal some information about the text producers' ideology, intention, stance and attitudes (Haider, 2019b).

Several scholars have conducted studies about the representation of homosexuals in media outlets (see Huang, 2018; McInroy and Craig, 2017; Wargo, 2017). Some researchers investigated the status of homosexuals and the societal attitudes towards them in some Arab and Muslim communities (see El-Sharif, 2016; Magid, 2014; Schmitt and Sofer, 1992).

However, little attention has been paid to how Arabic-language media covered events related to this group. Therefore, one of the research gaps that this study fills is using a relatively large amount of Arabic data to examine the thematic categories news agencies focus on when covering news about homosexuality. It answers the following questions:

(1) What are the most common discourses on homosexuality in the headlines of news outlets published in Arabic from 2010 to 2019?

(2) What are the most frequent countries in the context of homosexuality in Arabic-language media outlets?

Review of related literature

Critical discourse analysis of news

CDA is a type of text analysis that focuses on the way language exercises its power in society. It is an academic field developed in language study in which discourse is treated as "a form of social practice" (Fairclough and Wodak, 1997, p. 258). Its primary concern lies in the "ways discourse structures enact, confirm, legitimate, reproduce, or challenge relations of power and dominance in society" (Van Dijk, 2001, p. 353). CDA is a way to draw people's attention to the forms of inequalities and non-democratic practices in societies. It makes people realize that the way some texts and ideologies are represented may have a certain impact that is meant to control their minds. Such an impact can occur through reading the news, which is believed to have the power to manipulate readers and establish some ideologies that affect the way people speak and communicate (Haider, 2019a). Since the headline is the news' representative that gives readers brief information about the articles, it can be said to have a greater influence on people according to what is emphasized or deemphasized in its content.

News is the type of discourse that attracts more attention than any kind of written text. According to Van Dijk (1986, p. 156), "for most citizens, news is perhaps the type of written discourse with which they are confronted most frequently". The most widely read part of news is headlines, being among the essential elements of the news story and its summary (Haider and Olimy, 2019). They act as a forerunner to the news report (Mahmood *et al.*, 2011), and are usually scanned by readers to get brief information about the news being reported instead of reading whole articles (Dor, 2003). Schneider (2000, p. 48) states that "a headline describes the essence of a complicated news story in a few words. It informs quickly and accurately and arouses the reader's curiosity". Headlines are usually written with a specific structure and lexical choice that demonstrate exaggeration and sensationalization to develop the so-called "clickbait" headlines (Chen *et al.*, 2015). Mårdh (1980) identified some linguistic features that are usually present in headlines which include omission of articles, nominalization, use of puns and foregrounding the most crucial item.

Headlines do not serve only as a mechanism to lure readers into opening the article (Kuiken *et al.*, 2017) but also shape the readers' opinion and create some ideological images in their minds (Haider and Hussein, 2020). Readers are more likely to believe what is written in the headlines without even delving into the actual occurrence in the news stories. The linguistic features headlines exhibit make them memorable and effective (Develotte and Rechniewski, 2001).

Within the framework of CDA, different approaches are usually resorted to for a more explicit analysis of the way discourse is consumed. For the purpose of this study, Wodak's approach is followed to examine the compiled news headlines critically.

Wodak's Discourse Historical Approach (DHA)

Discourse Historical Approach (DHA) is a multidisciplinary approach that integrates "as many as of the genres of discourse referring to a particular issue as possible, as well as the historical dimension of that issue" (Van Leeuwen and Wodak, 1999, p. 91). Therefore, it can be

said that the discursive event under study is dealt with comprehensively, involving the empirical data and different sources of historical, sociological and political background information.

DHA takes a triangulatory approach based on the notion of context, which involves four levels (Reisigl and Wodak, 2001). The first level, a descriptive one, is concerned with the internal aspects of the text, such as the immediate language or co-text. The second level is related to the interdiscursive and intertextual relationships between utterances, texts, genres and discourse. The third level is concerned with institutional frames and extra-linguistic social variables of a specific "context of situation" including ethnic and religious identities. Finally, the fourth level is related to the historical and broader social and political contexts that dominate the discourse.

Three dimensions are central to DHA (Wodak, 2001a, p. 92). The first dimension is the topic establishment, which provides the tools of creating the specific content of a particular discourse. The second dimension, which is an investigation of the discursive strategies, refers to the actions and plan of the discursive tools that are employed to gain a particular purpose. Reisigl (2017, p. 52) points out that these strategies are crucial to the positive *self* and negative *other* presentation. They are represented by five simple questions that are analytically answered through qualitative and sometimes quantitative research on data. Table 1 shows the discursive strategies and linguistic devices employed in the DHA.

Nomination strategies include membership categorization, metaphors and the lexical choice of verbs and nouns used to denote processes and actions. Predication involves the use of evaluative attributions of negative or positive traits in the form of adjectives and prepositional phrases in addition to collocations, similes, hyperboles and others. Argumentation is achieved by the use of different topoi. Perspectivisation involves the use of direct or indirect speech in addition to quotation marks and discourse markers. Intensification/mitigation may be employed by indirect speech acts like questions instead of assertion and verbs of saying, feeling or thinking.

The last dimension is the linguistic realizations of the content and strategies achieved through type and token analysis.

Table 1. Discursive strategies in the DHA (Reisigl, 2017, p. 52)

Questions to approach discursive features	Discursive strategies	Purpose
How are persons, objects, phenomena, events processes and actions named and referred to linguistically in the discourse in question?	*Nomination*	Discursive construction of social actors Discursive construction of objects, phenomena, events Discursive construction of processes and actions
What characteristics or qualities are attributed to social actors, objects, phenomena, events, processes and actions mentioned on the discourse?	*Predication*	Discursive characterization of social actors, objects, phenomena, events, processes and actions (e.g., positively or negatively)
What arguments are employed in discourse?	*Argumentation*	Persuading addressees of the validity of specific claims of truth and normative rightness
From what perspective are these nominations, attributions, arguments expressed?	*Perspectivisation*	Positioning the speaker' or writer's point of view and expressing involvement or distance
Are the respective utterances articulated overtly? Are they intensified or mitigated?	*Mitigation and Intensification*	Modifying the illocutionary force of utterances in respect to their epistemic or deontic status

Arabic-speaking world, Islam and media

Arabic media outlets deliver news that is specifically geared to the concerns of the Arabic-speaking communities. However, it may be argued that it is illegitimate to refer to "Arabic" media as the term may indicate that these media form a unified whole. The Arab states demonstrate political divergence that correspondingly implies a lack of unity in the media. But since Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is the official language in the Arab world, this endows media with a sense of unity.

The role of Islam needs not to be forgotten here. Not all Arabs are indeed Muslims, and not all Muslims are Arabs, and this makes it impossible to conflate the terms Arabic and Islamic to refer to a unity established on those themes. However, considering the official religion in the twenty-two states that make up the Arab world, it can be said that the majority of the population adhere to Islam. Lebanon may be taken as an exception since it has a multitude of sectarian groupings with the largest proportion of Christians in the Arab World. Still, Muslims make up almost half of the population. Some non-Arab countries are partly or entirely Islamic, such as Iran, Indonesia and Pakistan. But even if there were non-Islamic religious minorities in the Arab world, the terms "Arab" and "Islamic" are deeply intertwined. Arab people are driven by the prevailing Islamic laws in addition to customs and traditions. Therefore, as Kent and Palmer (2005) put it:

> We have to accept that there is both unity and heterogeneity: a degree of unity based on a common language and religion that, probably, have given rise to a partly shared culture (Kent and Palmer, 2005, p. 2).

Moreover, conflating Islam with Arab may set up a "clash of the civilizations" type of argument, which suggests that Christianity as the West is more open and progressive than Islam as Arab, which is more repressive (Huntington, 1996). In issues related to sexuality, Norris and Inglehart (2002) state that:

> all the Western nations, led by Sweden, Germany and Norway, strongly favour equality for women and also prove tolerant of homosexuality. Many other societies show a mixed pattern, falling into the middle of the distribution. In contrast, the Islamic nations, including Egypt, Bangladesh, Jordan, Iran and Azerbaijan, all display the most traditional social attitudes (Norris and Inglehart, 2002, p. 257)

There are different Arabic-language media outlets located inside and outside the Arab world. For these outlets, there is one target, namely, Arabic-speaking audience. Media reports are usually constructed using a language that can shape attitudes and opinions in society through the way it presents people and issues (Copeland, 2003). However, they may conversely relate news events in a way that is tailored to the target audience's perspectives (Elejalde *et al.*, 2019). Therefore, when Western media outlets that publish in Arabic are free and supposed to cover the different points of view, their Arab counterparts, that are based and mainly distributed in the Arab world, tend to reflect the preference of people in charge including the religious authorities and the state where they are located.

As homosexuality is the primary concern of this paper, it must be noted that Arab countries and/or with an Islamic culture are influenced by the prevailing traditions and religious mores that strongly forbid same-sex relations. Therefore, news concerning the LGBT community may be adapted to meet the expectations of those populations. In Islamic countries, homosexual people are usually persecuted as religion stresses that establishing a relationship between members of one biological sex is sinful and severely forbidden. This is clearly stated in Al-Qur'an and Hadiths, which both contain texts that prohibit homosexuality since it goes against the natural law, and was never committed before the Prophet Lot's followers. Furthermore, Wahid (2003) states that homosexuality is considered to be *fahishah* (a nasty behaviour) and the doers of such an act are required to give it up and ask Allah for forgiveness immediately. Mustaqim (2003) goes further to say that

homosexuality is part of the main causes of diseases like HIV and AIDS and this may be viewed as God condemnation, similar to what happened to the Prophet Lot's followers.

Empirical studies on the representation of LGBT in media

Several studies investigated the representation of the LGBT community in different media outlets. Kuhar (2003) investigated how homosexuals are represented in the print media in Slovenia between 1970 and 2000. The representations were divided into five categories, namely, stereotyping where gays are presented as effeminate and lesbians as masculine; medicalization where homosexuality is viewed as a disease or a disorder; sexualization where homosexuality is reduced solely to sexuality and sex; secrecy where media manifest homosexuality as something concealed and related to shame and regret and finally normalization where homosexuality is represented as an acceptable act. The study concluded that media reporting on homosexuality was generally sympathetic or neutral. However, even the positive trend within media representations contained items that led to the perpetuation of negative attitude towards this phenomenon. Due to the uncertainty and uneasiness homosexuality still causes, the media usually resort to the stereotyped image, which corresponds to the readers' representations of homosexuality. Similarly, Bartley and Benitez-Castro (2016) studied how the language of newspapers reflected the mentality of Irish society with regard to the LGBT community in 2008. The study used a corpus-assisted discourse analysis of two hundred thousand words taken from three different newspapers. The associated terms were categorized into a subsystem of attitude, namely affect, judgement and appreciation. The study revealed a remarkably negative stance towards the Irish LGBT community.

Chang and Ren (2017) examined seventy-one reports to find out the construction of the image of gay men and lesbians in the Chinese media. The study found that homosexuals were represented as crime victims, violent subjects, enemies of traditional values and a source of social instability. Although homosexuality is official and legal in China, it is still tainted with sin and perversion in the mainstream public discourse. Wang (2017) investigated how the Taiwanese media represented the opposing sides in the same-sex marriage issue and the role it played in shaping the tone of this debate. The study followed a qualitative content analysis of the relevant news in three main Taiwanese newspapers in a period of two months. The study concluded that the opponents were more vocal in the press media and viewed homosexuals negatively and considered them a deviation and threat to the social norms. On the contrary, the advocates of this group considered them normal citizens who deserve equal rights to marry.

In the same vein, Chen (2018) examined the effect of time on the valence of the portrayal of the LGBT community in two American magazines to find if there was any connection between media coverage and the social changes. The study analysed one hundred sixty-two articles from 2000 to 2014. The results indicated a strong shift of media coverage in valence, matching the social trends and political movements that occurred during 2010–2014 when same-sex marriage became legal federally by the Supreme Court. Likewise, Cook (2018) explored the representation of LGBT characters on television and how it changed since 2001 using content analysis of nine T.V. shows from 2016 to 2017. The findings revealed that the representation of bisexual and transgender characters increased since 2001 but still lags behind lesbians and gay men in some ways. Similarly, Åkerlund (2019) analysed how Swedish newspapers represented trans people from 2000 to 2017 using topic modelling and CDA. The study found that the articles assisted in maintaining heteronormativity to a high degree through continuous referral to binary gender. The news producers employed discursive strategies such as trivializing trans expressions and incorporating them within binary stereotypes. Trans people were also excluded in many articles and viewed as deviant in some others through insensitive gender descriptions.

Within the Arabic context, different scholars have investigated issues related to homosexuality (see El-Khatib, 2011; El-Sharif, 2016; Mandour, 2013). El-Khatib (2011) examined the coverage of homosexuality by international and local networks. The researcher followed a quantitative content analysis approach to analyse online articles published by four Arabic-language media outlets, namely Al-Jazeera Arabic, Al Arabiya, BBC Arabic and CNN Arabic. The study found that political-economic factors influence how homosexuality is framed in Arabic-language media. Likewise, Mandour (2013) examined the radical change in media attitudes towards the issues of sexuality in Lebanon and the factors that contribute to or obstruct this change. She investigated the reactions of the different media outlets on "The Cinema Plaza" incident where the Lebanese police raided the Cinema and arrested 36 male attendees and performed anal probes on them. The researcher argued that this event formed the beginning of a turning point with regard to media attitudes towards issues of sexuality moving "from shaming homosexuality to shaming institutional homophobia" (Mandour, 2013, p. 6). The researcher argues that such a change "has been an accumulation of changes occurring on three levels: within Lebanese media, within larger socio-political structures, and as a result of progressive activist efforts" (p. 5). El-Sharif (2016) also analysed 35 Arabic media articles to examine how homosexuality, homosexuals and homophobia are represented in the Jordanian context following a secret LGBT meeting in May 2015 in Amman. He found that LGBT is represented negatively in the Jordanian media and that "this public discourse is mostly motivated by the (Islamic) religious ideology and the deeply-rooted socio-cultural beliefs and some folk ideas which all together formulate a unified and comprehensive ideology that aims to marginalize and criminalize LGBTQIA community in Jordan" (El-Sharif, 2016, p. 64).

Although there is considerable literature on the representation of homosexuals in media outlets, the number of articles that investigated the same concept in the Arab region is relatively limited to the best knowledge of the researchers. Therefore, this study can add great significance to existing knowledge as it tackles a limitedly investigated topic in the Arab world.

Methodology

The corpus of this study is built from scratch using the Factiva news database. Factiva is an international news database produced by Dow Jones. It provides users with a wide range of information from "more than 32,000 sources from nearly every country worldwide in 28 languages, including over 450 continuously updated newswires" (Factiva). According to Factiva website, "many of these sources are not available on the free Web, and more than 4,000 sources make information available on or before the date of publication" (Factiva). Factiva's content is continuously updated and is only made available for authorized users who have a subscription to the database. The website has options that allow users to search for articles that contain particular words in a particular time span.

For the article to be included in the study, it should contain one of the following Arabic query terms that pertain to homosexuality:

"شاذ جنسي" "شذوذ جنسي" "اللواط" "مثلية جنسية" "السحاق" "مثلي الجنس" "مثليه جنسية" "سحاقية"

The English versions of these query terms are stated below:

Homosexual OR homosexuality OR sodomy OR homosexuality OR lesbianism OR gay OR lesbian OR lesbo

It might be argued that the query terms mentioned above are not representative or exhaustive as Arabic may have other words or expressions that can be used to refer to homosexuals. In fact, these are the most common in Modern Standard Arabic which

dominates the content of media outlets. Colloquial Arabic may have other terms, but they are not used in media reports, and therefore, were excluded.

Regarding the period under investigation, the data included all Arabic articles on homosexuality that are available on Factiva database from January 2010 to December 2019. Since the main objective of this research is to examine how the Arabic-language media outlets represented homosexual people with the language being the major variable, the researchers did not specify the source and searched for all Arabic articles available on Factiva that contain any of the query terms above. Table 2 shows the number of articles produced every year in the specified period.

Looking for the Arabic query terms in Factiva resulted in five thousand two hundred thirty-six articles. The data analysed in this study include all headlines of the Arabic news articles on homosexuality published in all media outlets. Factiva allows users to save articles as Rich Text Format (RTF) or as a PDF document in different forms, namely Headline Format, Article Format or Headline and Article and Table of Content (TOC). Tables of content contain clickable headlines that are linked to the full articles. "Deleting Duplicates" option was selected in Factiva to avoid having the exact same article twice. Since this study attempts to examine the headlines of the Arabic news articles on homosexuality taking context and co-text into account, the researchers selected the options of saving the articles as RTF in the form of Article and TOC, where the tables of content of all retrieved documents were saved in separate files. After that, the researchers converted the RTF files to plain texts or .txt format before being processed in the corpus linguistic software Wordsmith 6 (Scott, 2012). Wordsmith 6 (WS6) is a paid software package developed by Mike Scott. In order to search for a particular term within the boundaries of the headlines using the "Tagstring_only tags" function in Wordsmith Tools 6, the researchers annotated the corpus by adding <title> and </title> at the beginning and end of each headline respectively.

The procedures followed in this research are:

(1) Developing research questions.

(2) Compiling an appropriate corpus that answers the research questions. Factiva news database is used to build the corpus, and five thousand two hundred thirty-six articles are retrieved.

(3) Considering the historical, religious and cultural aspects of the Arab communities and how they view homosexuals in addition to analysing the existing literature and reading studies and research papers that investigated the representation of homosexuals in different media outlets based in different countries.

Table 2. Number of Arabic articles on homosexuality in Factiva

Year	Number of articles
2010	21
2011	163
2012	380
2013	580
2014	606
2015	735
2016	591
2017	618
2018	746
2019	796
Total	5,236

(4) Examining the coverage, under-coverage, and over-coverage of the minority group understudy in the Arab media to identify the news agencies that covered more news about homosexuality.

(5) Using Wordsmith 6 (WS6) (Scott, 2012) to generate a frequency list for the corpus of headlines. Frequency list is a list of all words in the corpus with their frequencies.

(6) Examining the most frequent twenty lexical words to check the foci and grouping the words with similar themes together.

(7) Carrying out a qualitative concordance analysis for some words in the thematic groups created in step 6. Concordance analysis enables researchers to investigate the word/s in context by considering the surrounding words (McEnery and Wilson, 2001)

(8) Linking the findings with the results of previous studies and using some notions of CDA in general and Wodak's DHA to explain the results.

It must be noted that the researchers first considered the most frequent 10 words and found that the foci of the Arabic-language media outlets began to appear. The researchers then considered other 10 words and found new thematic categories. Repeating the process, i.e. adding new 10 words, for several times, did not reveal much, and no new thematic categories were found. Another point that needs to be highlighted here is that the researchers examined all instances. However, only a limited number of headlines are discussed and included in the analysis due to space constraints. In order to make sure that the selected lines for discussion are representative and illustrative of broader trends, the researchers tended to include the lines that cover different issues from different places. For example, if the headlines discuss one particular issue, only one or two of them is/are included.

Similarly, the researchers included headlines that are representative of different strategies. As discussed above, the focus in DHA is on five types of discursive strategies, namely, nomination; predication; argumentation; perspectivisation; and intensification/mitigation. However, the ratio of examples on each of these strategies is not expected to be the same as this depends on the strategies that the media outlets use the most. For example, Abdel Kader (2016) examined the anti-Islamisation and anti-immigration discourse employed by the English Defence League (EDL) and Britain First following Wodak's DHA and utilizing only nomination, predication and argumentation as they were the most salient and frequent in the data.

It is worth mentioning that the researchers carried out the analysis in Arabic first. After that, the concordance lines and frequency lists were translated into English and sent to two certified translators for their remarks and comments. The researchers took the translators' feedback into consideration and made the necessary amendments before including the concordance lines and frequency list in the paper.

Analysis and discussion

Examining the density of coverage

As mentioned in the methodology section, the number of retrieved articles is five thousand two hundred thirty-six in a period of 10 years. This suggests that homosexuals are under-covered in the Arabic-language media. The compiled news articles were published by different news agencies in different countries, as Table 3 shows.

Table 3 shows that the top 5 news agencies are international and based outside the borders of the Arab countries, except for Albawaba which is an independent producer and distributor of content in the Middle East that is headquartered in Jordan. These news agencies are dpa International Service (German news agency); Agence France Presse (Paris, France); Albawaba (independent producer and distributor of content in the

Table 3.
Top sources of articles compiled from Factiva

No	Source	Country	No. of articles
1	dpa International Service	German news agency	544
2	Agence France Presse	Paris, France	442
3	Albawaba	Independent producer and distributor of content in the Middle East	249
4	Al Arab	a pan-Arab newspaper published from London, England	191
5	Deutsche Welle	Germany	191
6	Sotaliraq	Iraq	181
7	The Associated Press	New York City	171
8	Annahar	Lebanon	146
9	Euronews	France	136
10	Al MasryAlYoum	Egypt	125

Middle East); Al Arab (pan-Arab newspaper published from London, England) and Deutsche Welle (Germany). Media giants in the Arab world; i.e. Al-Arabiyya and Al-Jazeera ranked twenty-third and forty-sixth with sixty-one and twenty-four articles successively. This indicates that the official news agencies of the Arab countries tend not to discuss news on homosexuality.

Such under-coverage of homosexuals and homosexuality might be interpreted by the notion that media's ultimate aim is profit maximization (Prat and Strömberg, 2013), and it is necessary to ensure the size and composition of their audiences (Bell, 1991). This may be achieved by trying to gain the approval of the audience (McQuail, 1969) through accommodating the news reports to their expectations. For their part, the audience may stop watching the news channels or buying newspapers if they do not agree with the discourse they employ (Cooper, 2008). To this end, media outlets tend to recruit people of different ideologies and political stances (Lasorsa, 1991). According to Reich and Hanitzsch (2013), autonomy in journalism can be external and internal; the former is influenced by the powers that exist in society and is related to censorship, legislation and regulation, etc. The latter is connected to the journalists' position to the ownership of media outlets and commercial factors. In the same vein, news selection can be determined by some factors that include institutional practices and conflict avoidance, among others (Sjovaag, 2013).

Frequency and concordance analyses

To check the most frequently discussed themes in the headlines, the researchers used frequency tool in WS6 frequency and generated a frequency list for the most frequent twenty content words in the headlines. It is worth noting that the researchers used a stop list to filter out the function words and the query terms used to compile the corpus (Table 4).

Frequency analysis for the terms that occurred the most in the headlines contributes to identifying the different news foci on homosexuals and uncovering discourses about their representation in the Arab media. Examining how the frequent words were used in the corpus revealed six main thematic categories, as Table 5 shows.

Crime

This category includes texts about the coverage of various criminal offences committed by homosexuals or texts on which people are criminalized for being homosexuals. The category has one word, which is بتهمة "on charges" (Concordance 1). See Appendix 1 for the English translation.

No	Word	Translation	Freq
1	بتهمة	on charges of	119
2	تونس	Tunisia	117
3	داعش	ISIS	111
4	قانون	Law	106
5	رئيس	head of	102
6	ماليزيا	Malaysia	102
7	مصر	Egypt	90
8	زواج	marriage	83
9	المعارضة	opposition	78
10	حقوق	rights	77
11	زعيم	leader	77
12	أنور	Anwar	69
13	روسيا	Russia	68
14	إبراهيم	Ibrahim	63
15	العفو	Amnesty	60
16	المتحدة	United	60
17	مشروع	Bill	60
18	ألمانيا	Germany	58
19	مهرجان	festival	58
20	السعودية	Saudi	55

Table 4. The most frequent 20 words in the corpus of the headlines

Category	Word
Crime	بتهمة On charges
Extremist Groups	داعش ISIS
Legislation	قانون law, زواج marriage, حقوق rights, العفو Amnesty, مشروع bill
Authority Figures and Scandals	رئيس head of, المعارضة opposition, زعيم leader, أنور Anwar, إبراهيم Ibrahim
Culture	مهرجان festival
Countries	تونس Tunisia, ماليزيا Malaysia, مصر Egypt, روسيا Russia, ألمانيا Germany, المتحدة united, السعودية Saudi Arabia

Table 5. Thematic categories for the most frequent 20 words in the corpus of headlines

N	Concordance
١	····· < /title> ···/ < مصر: اعتقال سبعة رجال بتهمة حضور حفل زواج مثليين title>
٢	< اعتقال 8 رجال في إندونيسيا بتهمة المشاركة في "حفلة جنس مثلية" title> ···/ <
٣	title السويد تحتج على تونس بسبب سجن سويدي بتهمة المثلية الجنسية.. وسط دعوات للحرية الجنسية /<
٤	title> السجن شهرا لستة شبان تونسيين دينوا بتهمة المثلية الجنسية title> ···/ <
٥	title> ····· title> تأجيل محاكمة قاصرتين مغربيتين بتهمة المثلية الجنسية title> ···/ <
٦	< ····· title> < مصر - اعتقالات بتهمة "المثلية" تثير جدلا على مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي
٧	title تونس .. ايقاف محام ورئيس حزب معارض بتهمة "اللواط" title> ····· title> ···/ <
٨	title> < ايقاف محام تونسي معارض بتهمة "اللواط" title> ····· title> ···/ <
٩	title> < ····· مصر: حبس 8 اشخاص بتهمة الفجور title> ···/ < title> ·····
١٠	title> < الحكم بحبس إعلامي مصري بتهمة الترويج للمثلية الجنسية! title> ···/ <
١١	title> < ····· title> < اعتقال إسرائيلي بتهمة اغتصاب أكثر من 140 طفلاً وطفلة /< title>

Concordance 1. Analysis of بتهمة "on charges" in the corpus of headlines

The most frequent content word in the headlines was بتهمة "on charges" with a frequency of one hundred nineteen. The overuse of such word with negative connotations is intended to perpetuate an antipathetic attitude towards homosexuals. Indeed, not only homosexuality by itself is seen as a crime in the countries that oppose this act but also promoting it (headline 10) or participating in activities arranged for it (headlines 1 and 2). In the countries where homosexuality is legalized such as Sweden (headline 3), a nomination strategy was used to represent the country as one unit and show its people's collective disapproval of arresting a Swedish homosexual. In the same headline, argumentation using the topos of justice was used when the Swedish objection was justified by calls for sexual freedom. In some headlines (2, 6, 7, 8), perspectivization was used in the form of quotation marks in order to contextualize the negative evaluative stance towards the quoted words, namely, حفلة جنس مثلية "gay party", المثلية "homosexuality" and اللواط "sodomy". Intensification was utilized in headline (9) by using the word الفجور "debauchery" in an attempt to show the atrocity of this act.

Using evaluative language to associate homosexuals with crimes perpetuates negative attitudes towards them. This lends support to Bartley and Benitez-Castro (2016) who revealed the effect of language on the negative judgements of the LGBT community. However, representing homosexuals as criminals is in contradiction with the previous findings of Chang and Ren (2017) who found that this group of people was represented as crime victims in some daily Beijing newspapers.

Extremist groups

This category contains texts about how ideologically oriented groups treat homosexuals and the types of punishment imposed on them in their rule-governed areas. It includes only one word which is داعش "ISIS", the Arabic-language acronym for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. ISIS is a militant group that claims to follow the Salafi jihadist doctrine of Sunni Islam. The researchers carried out a concordance analysis for داعش "ISIS" in the corpus under study (Concordance 2). See Appendix 2 for the English translation.

In this thematic group, the predication strategy was extensively used to establish an ideological stance against ISIS with regard to homosexuality through explicit predicates. Like other Jihadi groups, ISIS imposed severe measures against LGBT; however, what distinguishes the group is "the level of textual justification it has produced for such executions and the theatrical manner in which it conducts them, potentially inciting greater

N	Concordance
١	title> < ..... داعش يلقي ثلاثة مدنيين واحد عناصره من اعلى بناية بالفلوجة بتهمة ¥اللواط"¥"
٢	title> < ..... تنظيم داعش يقول إنه قتل رجلين مارسا المثلية الجنسية /> ...
٣	title> < ..... داعش يقطع راس ثلاثة اشخاص بتهمة المثلية وسب الله /> ...
٤	title> < ..... "داعش" يعدم ثلاثة عراقيين بتهمة "الشذوذ" بطريقة مرعبة /> ...
٥	title> < ..... "داعش" يعدم أربعة أشخاص بينهم عنصران بالتنظيم بتهمة "اللواط" وسط الموصل
٦	title> < ..... الموصل: داعش يعدم 3 أشخاص بإلقائهم من فوق مبنى /> ...
٧	title> < ..... داعش يرمي اثنين من عناصره وثلاثة مدنيين من مبنى في الموصل بتهمة اللواط />
٨	title> < ..... داعش يرمي تسعة مدنيين من مبنى شاهق في الموصل بتهمة الشذوذ الجنسي /> ...
٩	title> < ..... داعش» يذبح 4 بتهمة »المثلية الجنسية« في الموصل /> ...
١٠	title> < ..... بعد جهاد النكاح.. "داعش" يُحلّ "نكاح" الذكور /> ...
١١	title> < ..... "داعش" يجلد وينفي أحد قياديه الشرعيين بتهمة اللواط /> ...
١٢	title> < ..... داعش تقتل رجلا بتهمة المثلية الجنسية.. وتعاقبه بإلقائه من شاهق ورجمه /> ...
١٣	title> < ..... "داعش" تعدم عددا من عناصرها في نينوى بتهمة "المثلية"! /> ...
١٤	title> < ..... فظيع: "داعش" ترمي صبيا من أعلى سطح بناية لأنه "مثلي" /> ...
١٥	title> < ..... داعش ترجم شابين بتهمة المثلية الجنسية /> ...
١٦	title> < ..... داعش تبيح لعناصرها في الموصل ممارسة النكاح بينهم /> ...
١٧	t ..... بالوثائق/ علاقات جنسية مثلية بين عناصر "داعش"! /> ...

Concordance 2. Analysis of داعش "ISIS" in the corpus of headlines

anti-LGBT violence" (Zelin and Olidort, 2016, p. 1). In most of the headlines, the actions that are attributed to ISIS's penalties imposed on homosexuals, whether its members or civilians, represent cruelty and barbarity. These penalties include throwing from a high building (headlines 1, 6, 7, 8, 12 and 14), beheading and slaughtering (3 and 9), whipping (11) and stoning (15). In some cases, two penalties were imposed stressing the radical approach this group was following (headlines 11 and 12). In other cases, the way of killing was not stated (headlines 2, 4, 5 and 13), but a predicate adjective, namely, مرعبة "horrific" was used in (4) to describe the horrifying way people were killed. Where beheading was used, two crimes were reported, namely, homosexuality and blasphemy. What adds to the atrocity of this group's acts is penalizing minors and selecting the "highest" buildings to throw those found guilty from headline 14. What is worth mentioning here is that although homosexuality was seen as a punishable offence in most headlines, there are other cases which indicate that homosexuality was covertly practised among ISIS members (headlines 10, 16 and 17). In these headlines, a euphemistic name was used نكاح "male marriage" to show the double standards of the group. Reporting events this way might mobilize public opinions against ISIS more than homosexuality itself.

Legislation

This category contains texts about the legislation and policies pertaining to homosexuals. It includes words about anti-gay laws in addition to the legislation that imposes punishment for being homosexual. The researchers carried out a concordance analysis of the most frequent word in this category, namely قانون "law" in the corpus under study (Concordance 3). See Appendix 3 for the English translation.

Most of the headlines in Concordance 3 denote negativity of the legislation related to homosexuality. This was discursively achieved by different strategies such as explicit predicates represented by using linguistic forms like يعاقب "punish", يجرّم "criminalize" and يحظر "ban" (headlines 1, 2, 3, and 4) as well as adjectives that demonstrate anti features like مناهض "anti" and ضد "against" (headlines 5, 6, 7, 8, 9). However, the context of these headlines can be influenced by the legality of same-sex activities in the countries of reference. For example, the USA is a supporter of the LGBT community, and this justifies its condemnation of legislation against homosexuality (headlines 1, 5 and 11). Uganda, on the other hand, is a great opponent of same-sex relations, and the headlines including news about it seem to

N	Concordance
١	< title>أوباما ينذر اوغندا من عواقب سن قانون يعاقب "المثليين" /<... title>
٢	..... < title>بوتين يوقع قانونا يحظر التبني على الأزواج المثليين /< title>
٣	titlالعفو الدولية" تدعو مصر إلى إلغاء مشروع قانون يجرم "العلاقات المثلية" /<... title>
٤	< title>العفو الدولية تندد بمشروع قانون يجرم المثلية الجنسية في مصر /<... title>
٥	title>الولايات المتحدة توبخ قرغيزستان بسبب قانون مناهض للمثليين /<..... title>
٦	< title>منظمة حقوقية تدعو لبنان إلى إلغاء قانون مناهض لمثليي الجنس /<... title>
٧	< title>الرئيس النيجيري يقر مشروع قانون لمعاقبة المثليين /<..... title>
٨	< title>البرلمان الروسي يناقش اليوم قانونا ضد الدعاية لـ: "المثلية الجنسية" /< title>
٩	title>البنك الدولي يؤجل قرضا لأوغندا بسبب قانونها ضد المثليين /<..... title>
١٠	titlمندوبو الاتحاد الاوروبي يناقشون مع اوغندا قانونها حول مكافحة المثلية الجنسية /<... title>
١١	< title>ميركل تطالب موسكو بالتخلي عن قانون حظر الدعاية للمثلية الجنسية /<... title>
١٢	..... title>< قانون جديد يقضي بالسجن مدى الحياة للمثليين في أوغندا
١٣	< title>العفو الدولية تدعو ماليزيا إلى إلغاء قانون اللواط الجنائي بعد تبرئة أنور ابراهيم title/<
١٤	الأمم المتحدة: حظر الهند للمثلية الجنسية انتهاك للقانون الدولي /<... title>
١٥	< title>إندونيسيا: إقليم ¥أتشيه"¥" يفرض قانونا إسلاميا صارما يجرم الزنا والمثلية الجنسية /<

Concordance 3. Analysis of قانون "law" in the corpus of headlines

represent strict measures that clearly show their stance such as punishing homosexuals (headline 1), fighting against relevant acts (headline 10), and life-time imprisonment (headline 12). Moreover, argumentation strategy was employed in these headlines to emphasize attitudes towards homosexuality using different topoi. For example, the topos of authority is shown in the headlines referring to the Amnesty International which can mobilize public opinion in an aim to generate pressure on governments where discrimination against LGBT community takes place (headlines 3, 4 and 13). In contrast, Islam is used in the form of topos of authority in Aceh (Indonesia) to stress that the province strongly criminalizes homosexuality (headline 15). In addition, the topos of law is demonstrated with reference to the United Nations' perspective, which considers India's illegalization of homosexuality a breach of the International Law (headline 14).

All in all, it can be said that legislation concerning homosexuals in the context of their opponents are tainted with negativity. This is consistent with Wang (2017), whose results revealed that the negative attitudes towards same-sex marriage legalization were more vocal in media.

Authority figures and scandals

This thematic group contains texts about authority figures who are homosexual or accused of being homosexual. Some words in this category, namely *Anwar* and *Ibrahim*, are related to Anwar bin Ibrahim, a Malaysian politician, who was accused of being bisexual. The researchers carried out a concordance analysis for the most frequent word in this category, namely رئيس "head" (Concordance 4). See Appendix 4 for the English translation.

This group contains headlines about authority figures who or any of their relatives are reported to be homosexual. People are influenced by authority figures because of the power associated with their position and perceive their views as true and valid. Besides, these individuals are expected to behave in a way that conforms to the norms as they hold the position of leadership. However, in most of the headlines in Concordance 4, the concept of homosexuality is viewed as being odd (headlines 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12). Perspectivization was used in the form of direct quotes (headlines 3 and 7), probably to express distance from what is stated. In addition, the news about the president of Philippines may entail double standards; one time when he admits that he was a homosexual (headline 2) but realized it was an abnormal act that needed to be treated, and another when he accused the American ambassador of being homosexual as a kind of insult (headline 3). With regard to news about

N	Concordance
١	ابنة نائب الرئيس الأمريكي السابق تتزوج من صديقتها title> <
٢	قال أنه كان مثليا وعالج نفسه بالنساء .. رئيس الفلبين يثير الجدل من جديد title> <
٣	رئيس الفلبين: سفير أميركا مثلي وابن عاهرة! title> <
٤	مثلي الجنس" يترشح لمنصب رئيس بلدية بتركيا! title> <
٥	تونس .. ايقاف محام ورئيس حزب معارض بتهمة "اللواط" title> <
٦	السادة المحررون : إضافة تصريحات رئيس رابطة الأندية الألمانية -اللاعب الألماني السابق توماس هيتسلربرجر يكشف عن أنه شاذ جنسيا title> <
٧	تيم كوك رئيس شركة أبل: أنا فخور لكوني مثلي الجنس title> <
٨	البرلمان الصربي يعين مثلية جنسيا رئيسة للوزراء title> <
٩	عاجل: ••••• الحزب الحاكم في أيرلندا ينتخب مثلي الجنس فارادكار رئيسا له
١٠	هل يصبح التونسي منير بعطور أول رئيس مثلي جنسيا لدولة عربية؟ title> <
١١	رئيس وزراء ايرلندا الجديد "لوطي" title> <
١٢	رئيس وزراء لوكسمبورج يتزوج صديقه مثلي الجنس title> <

Concordance 4. Analysis of رئيس "head" in the corpus of headlines

authority figures in Islamic countries, the opposing attitude towards homosexuality was expressed in different methods including the use of exclamation mark (headline 4), negative linguistic context and placing the word لواط " sodomy" between quotation marks (headline 5), and the use of interrogation as a kind of censure (headline 10).

Most of the discussed headlines contained news about non-Arab figures who seemed to publicize their homosexuality. This goes in contrast with what was previously found by Kuhar (2003) regarding the manifestation of homosexuality as something concealed. There were no similar headlines about Arabs holding important positions as this act is associated with shame and scandals in their culture.

Culture

This category includes announcements of cultural events, e.g. reviews of films in which homosexual characters are involved. It contains one word which is مهرجان "festival" (Concordance 5). See Appendix 5 for the English translation.

Most of the headlines above exhibit negative linguistic context regarding festivals and films about homosexuals. This negativity is represented by the use of different explicit predicates such as boycotting (headline 1), banning (headlines 2, 3, 4 and 9), imposing restrictions (headline 8), protesting (headline 5), outraging (7) and being a source of dishonour (headline 10). Headline 12 is related to a Tunisian film that won an award in the Cannes Festival; however, this was countered by another headline which states that the film dishonours Tunisia (headline 10). Moreover, the film was described as audacious (headline 11), which may not be viewed positively by many people, especially in the Arab countries, which are known to be conservative. Even non-Arab secular countries where Islam is the predominant faith as Turkey, events related to homosexuals seem to be unwelcome (headlines 2 and 3). This attitude was reinforced through the topos of public security (headline 3). In the headlines related to UAE; however, the content tends to be neutral (headlines 6 and 13). Although it is an Islamic state where homosexuality is illegalized, it may be a bit more liberal than other countries due to its cosmopolitan nature with expatriate workers of different religions making up over than 85% of its population.

Countries

Since one of the objectives of this study is to identify the countries that were referred to the most in the news headlines in the context of homosexuality, the researchers generated a frequency list of the most frequent countries in the corpus (Table 6). It is worth noting that the

N	Concordance
١	e> ..../ > فرقة هولندية تقاطع مهرجانا لبنانيا تضامنا مع مشروع ليلى title> < ....
٢	le> ..../ > تلفزيون-حظر مهرجان ألماني لأفلام المثلية في أنقرة title> < ....
٣	title> .../ > محافظ أنقرة يمنع إقامة مهرجان سينمائي للمثليين جنسيا بسبب "الامن العام" title> < .....
٤	title> .../ > أوغندا تحظر عرض فيلم هولندي خلال مهرجان سينمائي لأنه "يروج للمثلية الجنسية" title> < .....
٥	e> ..../ > احتجاجات دينية في رومانيا ضد عرض فيلمين عن المثلية الجنسية title> < .....
٦	e> ..... / > مخرج إماراتي ينتج فيلما عن المثلية الجنسية في البيئة العربية title> < ....
٧	e> ..../ > فيلم إباحي للمثليين يثير سخط اللبنانيين title>< ....
٨	s> ...../ > روسيا تفرض قيودا على عرض فيلم "الجميلة والوحش" بسبب تناوله للشذوذ title> < .....
٩	e> ..... / > مشهد للشواذ يتسبب بمنع فيلم »الجميلة والوحش« من شركة ديزني title> < .....
١٠	le/ > وسط توقعات لاستخدام الفيلم ورقة سياسية لأغراض انتخابية: سليم الرياحي: فيلم المخرج التونسي عن السحاقيات في فرنسا لا يشرّف تونس
١١	title> .../ > عزيز روحو".. فيلم سينمائي تونسي جريء عن المثلية الجنسية title> < ....
١٢	title>< .... فيلم عن حياة سحاقية لمخرج تونسي الأصل يفوز بسعفة "كان" الذهبية
١٣	title> .../ > أسرار عائلية": أول فيلم مصري عن المثلية الجنسية في "مهرجان دبي" title> "< ....

Concordance 5. Analysis of مهرجان "festival" in the corpus of headlines

number of occurrences includes the name of the country and its different derivative forms. For example, Tunisia includes Tunisian and Tunisians.

Before we embark on discourse analysis to show how the media construct homosexuality as a stigmatized social subject and since discourse does not exist outside history, the researchers checked the status of homosexuality in the countries that were mentioned in Table 6. The researchers divided the countries into two main categories, first, countries whose laws criminalize homosexuals, and second, countries that are supportive for homosexuals (Table 7).

Countries illegalizing homosexuality

This category outnumbers the other, where the number of countries in this category is 11 when compared to the other category, which only includes eight countries. This suggests that Arabic-language media outlets tend to cover more news about the countries with a negative stance towards homosexuals. The researchers further divided the countries in this category into three sub-groups; first, Arab countries, the main audience for the materials published in Arabic; second, Muslim countries and third, non-Muslim countries.

Table 6.
A frequency list of the countries in the corpus of headlines

No	Country	Translation	Frequency
1	تونس	Tunisia	220
2	ماليزيا	Malaysia	212
3	مصر	Egypt	172
4	أميركا	The United States	140
5	روسيا	Russia	129
6	ألمانيا	Germany	106
7	المغرب	Morocco	99
8	سوريا	Syria	99
9	السعودية	Saudi Arabia	89
10	لبنان	Lebanon	85
11	بريطانيا	Britain	80
12	فرنسا	France	74
13	اسرائيل	Israel	51
14	أوغندا	Uganda	44
15	الفاتيكان	Vatican	44
16	الهند	India	42
17	اندونيسيا	Indonesia	38
18	بروناي	Brunei	35
19	قطر	Qatar	29

Table 7.
Dividing countries based on their stance towards homosexuality

	Opponents		
Arab	Muslim/non-Arab	Non-Muslim	Proponents
Tunisia	Malaysia	Uganda	The US
Egypt	Indonesia		Germany
Morocco	Brunei		Britain
Syria			France
Saudi Arabia			Israel
Lebanon			Russia
Qatar			Vatican

Arab Countries

This group includes some Arab countries, namely Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Qatar. Concordance 6 includes headlines related to homosexuals in the Arab/Muslim countries and how they were represented. See Appendix 6 for the English translation.

The linguistic context of most of these headlines stress opposition of several Arab countries towards homosexuality using explicit predicates that manifest penalties such as the imprisonment of homosexuals (headlines 12, 7, 16 and 20) and those promoting it (headline 18), execution (headlines 4), and torturing (headline 10). This stance was also supported by using a nomination strategy; even considering the acceptance of homosexuals on a specific occasion is by itself called a scandal (headline 15).

Several headlines do not point directly to the negative attitude towards the LGBT community, and implicatures were used instead. Homosexual's call for dignity and freedom indicates that they are facing both legal and social discrimination (headline 6). Moreover, stating that the members of this group are looking for acceptance implies that they are rejected by society (headline 8). A metaphor was also used to portray the LGBT community as a group swinging between tolerance and humiliation, which indicates their unstable state in the Arab community (headline 13).

In many headlines, there is a mention of international organizations that are known to put pressure on governments and policymakers to denounce abuse and respect human rights all over the world such as Human Rights Watch, International Amnesty and International Community. These organizations appear in the content of the headlines in support of the LGBT community by denouncing legislation that criminalizes homosexuality and urging to cancel them (headline 5, 11 and 17), condemning the actions taken on charges of being homosexual (headline 9) and expressing concern about the state of this group in some parts of the world (headline 19). This may have deeper implications which stress the strict measures indirectly and the firm stance these countries are taking against same-sex relations even with

N	Concordance
١	title><السعودية ترفض مشروع قرار في الأمم المتحدة يخص حقوق الشاذين جنسيا />
٢	title><السعودية ترفض أي تدخل في شؤونها الداخلية أو أي انتقاص من شريعتها الإسلامية
٣	title><السعودية ترفض قرار الأمم المتحدة السماح بـ"المثلية الجنسية" />...title>
٤	title><اعدام سعودي ارتكب "فاحشة اللواط بالقوة" باحدى محارمه />...title>
٥	title><هيومن رايتس ووتش تحث تونس على الغاء القوانين المجرمة للمثلية الجنسية />...title>
٦	title><مثليو الجنس في تونس يطالبون بالكرامة والحرية عبر مجلة إلكترونية />...title>
٧	title><ايقاف محام تونسي معارض بتهمة "اللواط" />...title>
٨	title><المثليون جنسيا في لبنان، شبكة اجتماعية واسعة تبحث عن القبول />...title>
٩	title><هيومن رايتس تتهم شرطة لبنان بتعذيب العاهرات والمثليين />...title>
١٠	title><تقرير: الشرطة اللبنانية تعذب متعاطي المخدرات والعاهرات والمثليين />...title>
١١	title><هيومن رايتس ووتش« تدعو المغرب إلى إلغاء تجريم المثلية الجنسية />...title>
١٢	title><المغرب تسجن ثلاثة بتهمة المثلية الجنسية />...title>
١٣	title><المثليون جنسيا في المغرب: فئة تتأرجح بين التسامح والإهانة />...title>
١٤	title><الغيفا: المثلية الجنسية شرط لاستضافة قطر مونديال />...title>
١٥	title><فضيحة جديدة.. أمير قطر يبحث السماح بـ"المثلية الجنسية"في كأس العالم 2022م.. />...title>
١٦	title><مصر: توقيف 33رجلا لاتهامهم بالمثلية الجنسية />...title>
١٧	title><العفو الدولية تندد بمشروع قانون يجرم المثلية الجنسية في مصر />...title>
١٨	title><الحكم بحبس إعلامي مصري بتهمة الترويج للمثلية الجنسية! />...title>
١٩	title><المجتمع الدولي قلق .على. المثليين في سورية />...title>
٢٠	title><المنيهلـــــة:كان يدعو الى الجهاد في سوريا :القبض على إمام يمارس اللواط داخل مسجد مقابل 20دينارا />title

Concordance 6. Analysis of the Arab countries in the corpus of headlines

the pressure of such international organizations. It must be noted, however, that these organizations were absent in the headlines related to Saudi Arabia and Qatar. On the contrary, Saudi Arabia is reported to refuse any resolution or interference regarding homosexuality from external bodies such as the United Nations (headlines 1, 2 and 3). This may be due to the fact that Saudi Arabia represents the Islamic leadership in the Arab world and needs to adhere to the religious legislation concerning this practice. With regard to Qatar, the context of the headlines did not include any penalties, and this may justify the absence of international organizations in their content. However, another association was mentioned to form pressure of a different kind; accepting LGBT people is a prerequisite to be offered the chance of hosting an important international event, namely the World Cup 2022 (headline 14).

Muslim non-Arab countries

Concordance 7 includes headlines related to homosexuals in the Muslim non-Arab countries and how they were represented. See Appendix 7 for the English translation.

This group includes Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. In the latter two, the Islamic context is dominating the general scene. Through the topos of Sharia' authority, these two countries impose strict measures against people accused of homosexuality including whipping (headline 7) and stoning (headline 8) despite the objection of international organizations such as the International Amnesty (headline 6) and United Nations (headline 9).

In the Malaysian context, most headlines revolve around one theme, which is the sodomy conviction of Anwar Ibrahim, the leader of the opposition. A predicative noun, namely إدانة *"accusation"*, was used to highlight Malaysia's perspective regarding homosexuality (headline 4) as well as explicit predicative يثبت حكم السجن "*confirm prison sentence*" (headline 1). However, in the headlines that do not reflect Malaysia's attitude, a more positive predicate was used, namely, يرحب "*welcome*" (headlines 2 and 3) to show the United Nations and France's reaction on affirming Anwar's acquittal. Another piece of news that stresses strong opposition to homosexuality in Malaysia is the accentuation of the penalty imposed on lesbian ladies (headline 5) using the adjective أول "*first*".

Non-Muslim country

This group includes only Uganda. Concordance 8 includes headlines related to homosexuals in the non-Muslim countries and how they were represented. See Appendix 8 for the English translation.

N	Concordance
١	القضاء الماليزي يثبت حكم السجن ضد أنور إبراهيم بتهمة المثلية title> <
٢	الاتحاد الأوروبي يرحب بتبرئة زعيم المعارضة الماليزي من تهمة 'اللواط' /> title>
٣	فرنسا ترحب بتبرئة زعيم المعارضة الماليزية أنور إبراهيم من تهمة 'اللواط' /> title>
٤	title>< ماليزيا: إدانة زعيم المعارضة بـ"تهمة اللواط" />
٥	title>< ماليزيا تنفذ أول حكم بجلد امرأتين مثليتين /> title>
٦	منظمة العفو" تدين بشدة جلد شابين "مثليين" في إندونيسيا /> title>
٧	جلد رجلين وامرأة في اقليم اتشيه الاندونيسي لمخالفتهم الشريعة الاسلامية /> title>
٨	سلطنة بروناي تقر عقوبة الرجم للمثليين والزنا /> title>
٩	الأمم المتحدة تندد بقوانين بروناي "غير الإنسانية" بحق المثليين وممارسي الزنى title> <

Concordance 7. Analysis of the Muslim non-Arab countries in the corpus of headlines

Just like several Muslim and Arab countries, Uganda takes strict measures against homosexuals that can reach life imprisonment (headline 5) and bans any activities that are thought to promote same-sex relations (headline 3). In another context, however, the severity of these relations was mitigated through decriminalizing them. Perspectivization was employed for this purpose to represent the President of Uganda's attitude towards homosexuals by highlighting, between quotation marks, that this group are مرضى "*sick*", but they do not deserve imprisonment (headline 1). Moreover, the linguistic forms used in some headlines may denote authoritarian acts practised by external bodies of power and influence against Uganda such as ينذر "*warns*" (headline 2) and يؤجل قرضًا "*postpone a loan*" (headline 6) for imposing legislation that criminalizes homosexuals. Such language did not appear in the headlines reporting about Arab countries as this may be viewed negatively by the Arabic newsreaders. In an opposing stance, Uganda is seen as challenging the US for imposing penalties on it for enforcing anti-gay legislation (headline 15).

Countries legalizing homosexuality

This category contains eight countries with a positive stance towards homosexuals. The countries include the US, Germany, Britain, France, and Israel, the Vatican, India and Russia (Concordance 9).

Although all the countries in this group legalize homosexuality, it still stirs controversy among people in India, Vatican and Russia. This was expressed by using the opposites المؤيدين والناهضين "*proponents and opponents*" of homosexuality (headline 25). Some headlines entail positivity towards LGBT community using explicit predicates such as يعتبرها مرضًا لا "*does not consider it a disease*" (headlines 20) and يعترف بوجود جنس ثالث "*admits the existence of third sex*" (headline 24). However, there are other headlines that indicate the reverse, such as describing homosexual acts as scandals (headline 21). It must be noted here that the state of homosexuals may be supported in the Vatican through the topos of priestship (headline 19) despite the strong disapproval this act encounters by the public (headline 18). Implicatures were also used to express the negative stance against homosexuals. In headline 27, LGBT community supporters' call for expropriating Russia from its right to host the Olympics implies the country's anti-gay standpoint. In addition, stating that India needs to take mature attitudes towards homosexuals indicates that this group is discriminated (headline 23). There are some actions that seem to conflict with the legality of homosexuality in Russia and India, such as violating LGBT people's rights (headline 26) and banning the practice itself (headline 22). It is worth mentioning here that homosexuality was illegal in India until 2018, which may justify the contradiction.

Unlike the above-discussed countries, the context of the headlines related to the remaining states in this group is tailored with a clear positivity. This is expressed through actions that include: offering equal rights to LGBT people similar to those of heterosexuals (headlines 3, 6, 13 and 14), granting homosexuals important positions (headlines 2, 8 and 11), encouraging the disappearance of homophobia (headlines 12 and 15) and announcing it in public (headlines 4,

N	Concordance
١	····· < title> الرئيس الاوغندي: المثليون "مرضى" لكنهم لا يستحقون السجن /> ··· title>
٢	title> ····· ··· /> "المثليين" يعاقب قانون سن من عواقب اوغندا ينذر أوباما title> < ··
٣	····· < title> أوغندا تحظر عرض فيلم هولندي خلال مهرجان سينمائي لأنه "يروج للمثلية الجنسية"
٤	····· < title> أوغندا تتحدى إعلان أمريكا فرض عقوبات عليها بسبب قانون مناهض للمثليين />
٥	title> ····· ··· /> مدى الحياة بالسجن تجرم المثلية الجنسية أوغندا title> < ·····
٦	title> ····· ··· /> الجنسية المثلية تجريم قانون بسبب لأوغندا قرضا يؤجل الدولي البنك

Concordance 8. Analysis of Uganda in the corpus of headlines

N	Concordance
١	أمريكا تشيد بقرار المحكمة العليا في بوتسوانا عدم تجريم علاقة المثليين
٢	الولايات المتحدة تنتخب اول سناتورة مثلية الجنس
٣	حقوق قانونية متساوية للأزواج من نفس الجنس الأمريكيين
٤	رفع الحظر على الجهر بالمثلية الجنسية في الجيش الأمريكي
٥	مسيرة للمثليين في لندن توافق الذكرى الـ٥٠لإلغاء بريطانيا تجريم المثلية الجنسية
٦	بريطانيا تبيح الزواج بين المثليين جنسيا بمزايا مكافئة لحقوق الزواج التقليدي
٧	اسرائيل: نتنياهو يدين تصريحات وزير التعليم بشأن المثليين
٨	نتانياهو يعين مثليا وزيرا للعدل للمرة الأولى في تاريخ إسرائيل
٩	حزب "ميريتس" الإسرائيلي اليساري انتخب نائبا سابقا يجاهر بمثليته الجنسية رئيسا له
١٠	توقف مباراة في الدوري الفرنسي بسبب هتافات ضد المثلية الجنسية
١١	فرنسا تصرعلى تعيين مثلي سفيرا لها في الفاتيكان
١٢	فرنسا: الحكومة تشن حملة ضد العنصرية ورهاب المثلية على تويتر.
١٣	فرنسا: مجلس النواب يقر مشروع زواج المثليين وتبنيهم للأطفال
١٤	البرلمان الألماني يمنح الأزواج مثلي الجنس حقوقا ضريبة متساوية
١٥	وزير العدل الألماني لـ)د.ب.أ(: لابد من اختفاء رهاب المثلية من المجتمع
١٦	ألمانيا: انتقادات لرجل دين كاثوليكي بارز يصف المثليين بالمرضى
١٧	ألمانيا تشجع اللاعبين المثليين للكشف عن حقيقتهم
١٨	غضب شديد في الفاتيكان مع كشف كاهن مسؤول عن مثليته الجنسية عشية بدء السينودوس
١٩	كتاب: 4من كل 5كهنة في الفاتيكان مثليون
٢٠	الفاتيكان: البابا فرنسيس لا يعتبر المثلية الجنسية مرضا
٢١	كتاب جديد حول فضائح الشذوذ الجنسي في الفاتيكان
٢٢	الأمم المتحدة: حظر الهند للمثلية الجنسية انتهاك للقانون الدولي
٢٣	الممثل البريطاني إيان ماكلين: على الهند أن تتضح في مواقفها ضد المثليين
٢٤	الهند تعترف بوجود "جنس ثالث"
٢٥	اشتباكات عنيفة بين المؤيدين والمناهضين للمثلية الجنسية في روسيا
٢٦	المحكمة الأوروبية تدين روسيا لانتهاكها حقوق المثليين
٢٧	مناصرو المثلية الجنسية يطالبون بتجريد روسيا من حق استضافة أولمبياد 2014

Concordance 9. Analysis of countries supporting homosexuality in the corpus of headlines

9 and 17). Even when the context implies an attitude against LGBT, a counteraction is taken that is expressed by supportive predication (headlines 1, 5, 7, 10 and 16). In general, it can be said that the linguistic context of the headlines related to these countries confirms that homosexuality is not only legalized but also approved of by these societies. Including such examples, despite their limited number, indicates that the media outlets cover all points of view. By doing so, they present themselves as free, democratic and immune from the states' influence.

CDA, Wodak's DHA and this study

In the present study, the researchers applied the notions and principles of CDA in general and Wodak's DHA in particular to uncover the discourses woven by the Arabic-language media outlets about a group whose voice is usually unnoticed in the society. The formula of language, power, ideology and society in addition to the context (Wodak, 2001a, b) is essential for the purpose of this piece of research. By analysing the lexical choices of media outlets and identifying the most frequent discourses in the context of homosexuality, this study highlighted some of the ideologies that are not clearly noticeable to lay readers. The descriptions that media outlets use to report events are important as the same event can be covered using different structures and lexical items. The researchers highlighted how some media outlets might represent homosexuals in a negative way through language. This may, in the end, influence how readers view homosexuals and deal with them. The principles of CDA and DHA partly contributed to identify the ideological loads of discourses and uncover some hidden meanings. This is achieved by examining the different discursive strategies used by the media outlets to deliver different messages taking into account the overall context of how the majority of audience view homosexuals.

Fairclough (1995) pointed out that it is crucial to consider "the nature of the market which the mass media are operating within, and their relationship to the state, and so forth" (p. 36). Following Wodak's DHA, the researchers considered the context of the Arabic-speaking regions and studied some different aspects that may affect texts production, including religion, culture and traditions. Understanding these aspects helped the researchers explain and interpret some of the study findings by showing how the media outlets are "influenced by the stock of ideas circulating in the culture in which they are working" (Haider, 2016, p. 54).

The findings of the current study showed the dialectical relation between language and society; where the language is influenced by society, which is in turn partly shaped by language. For example, the language of the media outlets and how they represented homosexuals were influenced by the dominating negative stance towards this group in the Arab world. On the other hand, readers might have negative attitudes and reactions when dealing with homosexuals. One of the implications that can be taken from the CDA part of the study is that people should not take whatever they read or watch for granted in order not to be manipulated by the way certain ideologies are represented. This will, in the end, lead to better social interactions (Allen, 2009).

Conclusion and implications

The question of news discourse around homosexuality in Arabic-language news outlets is a worthy one, considering the repeated and intensified crackdowns on the queer community in different parts of the Arab World. This study investigated the representation of homosexuals in Arabic-language media outlets. By using a corpus of news headlines collected in the period between 2010 and 2019, the study showed that homosexuals are under-covered in media with a relatively limited number of articles reporting news about them. The analysis showed that the status of homosexuals in the Arab world is overwhelmingly laden with a negative attitude. Homosexuality was represented as a crime in the countries that oppose this act, and even promoting it or participating in activities arranged for it is also criminalized. Even the lexical choice of the words that describe legislation concerning homosexuals carry a great sense of disapproval. When it comes to authority figures who were reported to be gay, the context implied an odd behaviour that was foregrounded in the headlines and is usually scandalized. People of power are expected to behave in a way that conforms to the norms, but the eccentricity implied by their homosexual tendency stresses that this practice is deviant and against nature.

Furthermore, the terms, that were used to show how festivals or films related to homosexuals were dealt with, are also pejorative. This emphasizes that within the Arabic news frame, even cultural activities need to exclude this segment of the population. It must be noted that all this negativity about homosexuals was basically present in the headlines covering news about Arab and Muslim countries, though other non-Muslim states such as Uganda have similar anti-gay views. In the countries that legalize same-sex relations, the news about the LGBT community was discursively negative in some countries such as Russia and India, which indicates general societal disapproval of this behaviour. In some others, such as the US, Germany and France, the context of the headlines demonstrated positive attitudes perpetuated by the supportive actions that were represented by the lexical choice of words.

The present research probed into the role of Arabic-language media in influencing and shaping public opinion about homosexual people and yielded ample feedback to help assess the media coverage of events related to this minority group. The data analysis and interpretation of the findings can be crucial to the decision-makers and policymakers in the Arab world. Consequently, the present research has the following implications:

First: enforcing and enhancing the principles and values of solidarity and respecting all groups in society.

Second: taking prompt, appropriate and sound decisions and measures to guard against any potential threats or dangers to the members of minority groups.

Third: drawing people's attention towards the forms of domination and inequalities, raising their awareness of such forms and encouraging them not to be manipulated by the ways media outlets present ideologies

Fourth: urging Arabic-language media outlets, including radio, T.V., newspapers, the internet and social media platforms, to be more objective when covering news about minority groups and not to be influenced by the stock of ideas circulating in the culture where they report.

This study used a particular type of data (media texts/ headlines), in one language (Arabic), within a defined timeframe (2010–2019) and theoretical and methodological framework (CDA and CL) to answer particular research questions. Therefore, there are bound to be limitations. This study examined the representation of homosexuals in headlines. So future researchers may investigate how this minority group is represented in the body of the articles and see whether their findings are convergent, dissonant or complement with the results obtained from the headlines' analysis (Haider and Hussein, 2020). The corpus of this study is available for public use and can be used by other researchers to examine other issues related to homosexuality. This study also recommends compiling several Arabic corpora about the same or similar topics as this might uncover new discourses and create more generalizable results.

This study only investigated the representation of homosexuals in media outlets that publish in Arabic. It is recommended that future research be conducted on some media outlets headquartered and published in a particular country. For example, looking at how Jordanian or Egyptian media outlets represent homosexuals as this can provide a broader view of the investigated phenomenon and how language can be affected by governmental policies and legislation. Another interesting way to broaden the analysis would be including some media outlets published in English or French and located in one of the Arab countries.

References

Abdel Kader, N. (2016), "A critical analysis of anti-Islamisation and anti-immigration discourse: the case of the English Defence League and Britain First", *International Journal for Innovation Education Research*, Vol. 4 No. 5, pp. 26-53.

Åkerlund, M. (2019), "Representations of trans people in Swedish newspapers", *Journalism Studies*, Vol. 20 No. 9, pp. 1319-1338.

Allen, A. (2009), "Discourse, power, and subjectivation: the Foucault/Habermas debate reconsidered", *Philosophical Forum*, Vol. 40, pp. 1-28.

Asal, V., Sommer, U. and Harwood, P.G. (2013), "Original sin: a cross-national study of the legality of homosexual acts", *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 46 No. 3, pp. 320-351.

Baker, P. (2004), "Querying keywords: questions of difference, frequency, and sense in keywords analysis", *Journal of English Linguistics*, Vol. 32 No. 4, pp. 346-359.

Baker, P. (2010), *Sociolinguistics and Corpus Linguistics*, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh.

Bartley, L. and Benitez-Castro, M.A. (2016), "Evaluation and attitude towards homosexuality in the Irish context: a corpus-assisted discourse analysis of appraisal patterns in 2008 newspaper articles", *Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies*, Vol. 16 No. 1, p. 1.

Bell, A. (1991), *The Language of News Media*, Blackwell, Oxford.

Chang, J. and Ren, H. (2017), "Keep silent, keep sinful: mainstream newspapers' representation of gay men and lesbians in contemporary China", *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, Vol. 24 No. 3, pp. 317-340.

Chen, Y.A. (2018), "Media coverage and social changes: examining valence of portrayal of the LGBT community from 2000 to 2014 in two US magazines", *Intercultural Communication Studies*, Vol. 27 No. 1, pp. 83-95.

Chen, Y., Conroy, N.J. and Rubin, V.L. (2015), "Misleading online content: recognizing clickbait as 'false news'", in *Proceedings of the 2015 ACM on Workshop on Multimodal Deception Detection*, pp. 15-19.

Connell, R.W. (1997), "Sexual revolution", in Segal, L. (Ed.), *New Sexual Agendas*, Palgrave Macmillan, London, pp. 60-76.

Cook, C. (2018), *A Content Analysis of LGBT Representation on Broadcast and Streaming Television*, University of Tennessee, Undergraduate Thesis.

Cooper, Z.L. (2008), *Changing Demographics in Latvia by Changing Ethnic Law*, (Master Thesis), University of Kansas, U.S., available at: https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/bitstream/handle/1808/4179/umi-ku-2621_1.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

Copeland, D.A. (2003), *Newspapers in the Americas, the Function of Newspaper in Society: A Global Perspective*, Praeger Publishers, London.

Develotte, C. and Rechniewski, E. (2001), "Discourse analysis of newspaper headlines: a methodological framework for research into national representations", *The Web Journal of French Media Studies*, Vol. 4 No. 1, pp. 1-12.

Dor, D. (2003), "On newspaper headlines as relevance optimizers", *Journal of Pragmatics*, Vol. 35 No. 5, pp. 695-721.

El-Khatib, M.M. (2011), *Deconstructing the Gay International: A Content Analysis of Coverage of Homosexuality in Arabic Satellite News*, Georgetown University, M.A. thesis.

El-Sharif, A. (2016), "Addressing the question of homophobia in Jordanian public discourse", *International Journal of Applied Linguistics English Literature*, Vol. 6 No. 1, pp. 47-65.

Elejalde, E., Ferres, L. and Schifanella, R. (2019), "Understanding news outlets' audience-targeting patterns", *EPJ Data Science*, Vol. 8 No. 16, pp. 1-20.

Fairclough, N. (1995), *Media Discourse*, E. Arnold, London.

Fairclough, N. and Wodak, R. (1997), "Critical discourse analysis", in van Dijk, T.A. (Ed.), *Introduction to Discourse Analysis*, Sage, London, pp. 258-284.

Haider, A.S. (2016), *A Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis of the Arab Uprisings : Evidence from the Libyan Case*, University of Canterbury, PhD thesis.

Haider, A.S. (2019a), "The representation of Al-megrahi's release in Arabic and English newspapers in 2009 and 2010: a corpus-assisted discourse study", *Dirasat: Human and Social Sciences*, Vol. 46 No. 1 Supplement 2, pp. 297-317.

Haider, A.S. (2019b), "Using corpus linguistic techniques in (critical) discourse studies reduces but does not remove bias: evidence from an Arabic corpus about refugees", *Poznań Studies in Contemporary Linguistics*, Vol. 55 No. 1, pp. 89-133.

Haider, A.S. and Hussein, R.F. (2020), "Analysing headlines as a way of downsizing news corpora: evidence from an Arabic–English comparable corpus of newspaper articles", *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, Vol. 35 No. 4, doi: 10.1093/llc/fqz074.

Haider, A.S. and Olimy, S. (2019), "The representation of laji'een (refugees) and muhajireen (migrants) in the headlines of Jordan news agency (PETRA)", *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law-Revue internationale de Sémiotique juridique*, Vol. 32, pp. 155-186.

Hildebrandt, A. (2015), "Christianity, Islam and modernity: explaining prohibitions on homosexuality in UN member states", *Political Studies*, Vol. 63 No. 4, pp. 852-869.

Huang, Y. (2018), "Media representation of Tongxinglian in China: a case study of the people's daily", *Journal of Homosexuality*, Vol. 65 No. 3, pp. 338-360.

Huntington, S.P. (1996), *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, Simon and Schuster, New York.

Kent, G. and Palmer, J. (2005), "Arabic-speaking worlds and media", *Questions de Communication*, Vol. 8, pp. 1-9.

Koller, V. and Mautner, G. (2004), "Computer applications in critical discourse analysis", in CH Coffin, A. and O'Halloran, K. (Ed.), *Applying English Grammar: Corpus and Functional Approaches*, Arnold, London, pp. 216-228.

Kuhar, R. (2003), *Media Representations of Homosexuality*, Mirovni institut/Peace Institute, Ljubljana, pp. 1970-2000.

Kuiken, J., Schuth, A., Spitters, M. and Marx, M. (2017), "Effective headlines of newspaper articles in a digital environment", *Digital Journalism*, Vol. 5 No. 10, pp. 1300-1314.

Lasorsa, D.L. (1991), "Effects of newspaper competition on public opinion diversity", *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*, Vol. 68 Nos 1-2, pp. 38-47.

Mårdh, I. (1980), *Headlinese: On the Grammar of English Front Page Headlines*, Gleerup, Malmö, Sweden, Vol. 58.

Magid, A. (2014), *Little Protection for Gays in Jordan*, Al-Monitor.

Mahmood, M.A., Javed, S. and Mahmood, R. (2011), "A critical discourse analysis of the news headlines of budget of Pakistan FY 2011-2012", *Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business*, Vol. 3 No. 5, pp. 120-129.

Mandour, S. (2013), *Potential Change in Media Discourse on Sexuality in Lebanon: Cinema Plaza and Beyond*, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford, Oxford.

McEnery, T. and Wilson, A. (2001), *Corpus Linguistics*, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh.

McInroy, L.B. and Craig, S.L. (2017), "Perspectives of LGBTQ emerging adults on the depiction and impact of LGBTQ media representation", *Journal of Youth Studies*, Vol. 20 No. 1, pp. 32-46.

McQuail, D. (1969), *Towards a Sociology of Mass Communications*, Collier-Macmillan, New York.

Mustaqim, A. (2003), "Homoseksual dalam tafsir klasik dan kontemporer "homosexuality in the contemporary and classic interpretation", *Musãwa Jurnal Studi Gender dan Islam*, Vol. 2 No. 1, pp. 1-14.

Norris, P. and Inglehart, R. (2002), "Islamic culture and democracy: testing the 'clash of civilizations' thesis", *Comparative Sociology*, Vol. 1 Nos 3-4, pp. 235-263.

Prat, A. and Strömberg, D. (2013), "The political economy of mass media", in Acemoglu, D., Arellano, M. and Dekel, E. (Eds), *Advances in Economics Econometrics*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Vol. 2, p. 135.

Reich, Z. and Hanitzsch, T. (2013), "Determinants of journalists' professional autonomy: individual and national level factors matter more than organizational ones", *Mass Communication and Society*, Vol. 16 No. 1, pp. 133-156.

Reisigl, M. (2017), "The discourse-historical approach", in Flowerdew, J. and Richardson, J.E. (Eds), *The Routledge Handbook of Critical Discourse Studies*, Routledge, London, pp. 44-59.

Reisigl, M. and Wodak, R. (2001), *Discourse and Discrimination*, Routledge, London.

Schmitt, A. and Sofer, J. (1992), *Sexuality and Eroticism Among Males in Moslem Societies*, Harrington Park Press, Binghamton, NY.

Schneider, K. (2000), "The emergence and development of headlines in British newspapers", in Ungerer, F. (Ed.), *English Media Texts Past and Present: Language and Textual Structure*, John Benjamins, Philadelphia, PA, Vol. 2000, pp. 45-65.

Scott, M. (2012), *WordSmith Tools Version 6*, Lexical Analysis Software, Stroud.

Sjovaag, H. (2013), "Journalistic autonomy; between structure, agency and institution", *Nordicom Review: Nordic Research on Media and Communication*, Vol. 34, pp. 155-167.

Stubbs, M. (1997), "Whorf's children: critical comments on critical discourse analysis (CDA)", in Ryan, A. and Wray, A. (Eds), *Evolving Models of Language: British Studies in Applied Linguistics, Multilingual Matters*, Clevedon, Vol. 12, pp. 100-116.

Stubbs, M. (2001), *Words and Phrases: Corpus Studies of Lexical Semantics*, Blackwell Publishers, Malden, MA; Oxford.

Van Dijk, T.A. (1986), "News schemata", in Cooper, C.R. and Greenbaum, S. (Eds), *Studying Writing: Linguistic Approaches. Written Communication Annual: An International Survey of Research and Theory Series*, Sage, London, pp. 155-186.

Van Dijk, T.A. (1998), *Ideology: A Multidisciplinary Approach*, Sage, London.

Van Dijk, T.A. (2001), "Critical discourse analysis", in Schiffrin, D., Tannen, D. and Hamilton, H.E. (Eds), *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*, Blackwell, Oxford, pp. 352-371.

Van Leeuwen, T. and Wodak, R. (1999), "Legitimizing immigration control: a discourse-historical analysis", *Discourse Studies*, Vol. 1 No. 1, pp. 83-118.

Wahid, W.G.A. (2003), "Perilaku homoseks dalam pandangan hukum Islam 'homosexuality in the islamic law'", *Musãwa Jurnal Studi Gender dan Islam*, Vol. 2 No. 1, pp. 15-27.

Wang, Z. (2017), *Eyeing Marriage Equality: News Media Representation of Same-Sex Marriage Legalization Debate in Taiwan*, Lund university, MA Thesis.

Wargo, J.M. (2017), "'Every selfie tells a story…': LGBTQ youth life streams and new media narratives as connective identity texts", *New Media Society*, Vol. 19 No. 4, pp. 560-578.

Widdowson, H.G. (2000), "On the limitations of linguistics applied", *Applied Linguistics*, Vol. 21 No. 1, pp. 3-25.

Wodak, R. (2001a), "The discourse-historical approach", in Wodak, R. and Meyer, M. (Eds), *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*, Sage Publications, London, pp. 63-94.

Wodak, R. (2001b), "What CDA is about - a summary of its history, important concepts and its developments", in Wodak, R. and Meyer, M. (Eds), *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*, Sage Publications, London, pp. 63-94.

Zelin, A.Y. and Olidort, J. (2016), *The Islamic State's Views on Homosexuality*, The Washington Institute, Washington.

Appendices

Appendix 1

English Translation of Concordance (1)

N	Concordance
1	<title> Egypt: Seven men arrested on charges of attending a gay marriage </title>
2	....<title> Eight men in Indonesia were arrested on charges of participating in a "gay party" </title> .....
3	Sweden denounces Tunisia's imprisonment of a Swedish citizen on charges of homosexuality amid calls for sexual freedom </title>
4	...<title> Six months in prison for six young Tunisians convicted on charges of homosexuality </title> .....
5	...<title> Postponement of trial of two Moroccan minors on charges of homosexuality </title> ....
6	....<title> Egypt - Arrests on charges of "homosexuality" stir controversy on social media sites
7	<title> Tunisia arrested lawyer and head of an opposition party on charges of "sodomy" </title> ....
8	....<title> Suspected Tunisian lawyer arrested on charges of "sodomy" </title> ....
9	....<title> Egypt: 8 people imprisoned on charges of debauchery </title> ....
10	....<title> Egyptian Tv presnetr is sentenced to prison on charges of promoting homosexuality! </title> .....
11	....<title>An Israeli arrested on charges of raping more than 140 boys and girls. </title>

Appendix 2

English Translation of Concordance (2)

N	Concordance
1	<title> ISIS throws three civilians and one of its members from the tallest building in Fallujah on charges of "sodomy"
2	.... <title> ISIS says it killed two men who practiced homosexuality </title> ....
3	....<title> ISIS beheading three people for homosexuality and blasphemy </title> ....
4	. ...<title> ISIS executes three Iraqis for "homosexuality" in a horrific manner </title> ....
5	.... <title> ISIS executes four people, including two ISIS militants, on charges of sodomy in Mosul </title> .....
6	<title> ISIS executes four people, including two ISIS militants, on charges of sodomy in Mosul </title> ....
7	.. ..<title> Mosul: ISIS executed 3 people by throwing them from the top of a building </title> ....
8	... ... <title> ISIS throws two of its members and three civilians from a building in Mosul on sodomy charges </title>
9	.... <title> ISIS throws nine civilians from a high-rise building in Mosul on charges of homosexuality </title> .....
10	....<title> "ISIS" slaughtered 4 on charges of "homosexuality" in Mosul </title> ....
11	..... <title> After the sexual jihad ... ISIS legalises male "marriage" </title> ....
12	....<title> ISIS whipped and exiled one of its legitimate leaders for sodomy </title> ....
13	....<title> ISIS kills a man for homosexuality ... and punishes him by throwing him from a high building and stoning him.
14	....<title> ISIS executes a number of its members in Nineveh for "homosexuality"! </title> ....
15	.... <title> Horrible: "ISIS" throws a boy from the top of a building because he is "gay." </title> ....
16	... .<title> ISIS stoned two young men for homosexuality </title> ....
17	.... <title> ISIS allows male marriage among its members in Mosul </title> ....
18	In Documentation / Homosexual relations among ISIS members! </title> .....

Appendix 3

English Translation of Concordance (3)

N	Concordance
1	<title> Obama warns Uganda of the consequences of enacting a law punishing "homosexuals" </title>
2	.... <title> Putin signs law banning adoption of same-sex couples </title> .....
3	...<title> "Amnesty International" calls on Egypt to repeal a draft law criminalizing "same-sex relations" </title> .....
4	..... <title> Amnesty International condemns a draft law criminalizing homosexuality in Egypt </title> .....
5	...<title> The United States reprimanded Kyrgyzstan for the anti-gay law </title> ....
6	...<title> Human rights organization calls for Lebanon to repeal anti-gay law </title> ....
7	....<title> Nigerian President passes gay draft law </title> ....
8	.... <title> The Russian Parliament is discussing today a law against propaganda for "homosexuality" </title> .....
9	<title> World Bank postpones loan to Uganda due to anti-gay law </title> ....
10	..... <title> European Union delegates discuss with Uganda its law on homosexuality control </title> ....
11	.... <title> Merkel calls on Moscow to abandon the law banning homosexuality and publicity </title> .....
12	....<title> New law imposes life imprisonment for LGBT people in Uganda
13	<title> Amnesty International calls on Malaysia to repeal the Sodomy law after acquitting Anwar Ibrahim. </title> ..... .
14	United Nations: India's ban on homosexuality is a violation of international law </title> ....
15	.... <title> Indonesia: Aceh province imposes strict Islamic law criminalizing adultery and homosexuality </title> .....

Appendix 4

English Translation of Concordance (4)

N	Concordance
1	<title> The daughter of the former US Vice President marries her friend </title> <title> He said he was gay and treated himself with women ..
2	He said he was gay and treated himself with women .. The President of the Philippines raises controversy again </title> ....
3	....<title> President of the Philippines: the American Ambassador is homosexual and a son of a whore </title>
4	. ...<title> "Gay" to run for mayor's post in Turkey! </title> ....
5	..... <title> Tunisia .. Arrest of a lawyer and head of an opposition party on charges of "sodomy" </title> ....
6	... . <title> The head of the German club association - former German player Thomas Hitzlsperger reveals he is gay
7	....<title> Apple CEO Tim Cook: I'm proud to be gay </title> ....
8	..... <title> The Serbian Parliament appoints a lesbian prime minister </title> ....
9	le> Urgent: ••••• Ireland's ruling party elects gay Faradkar as president </title> ....
10	..... <title> Will Tunisian Mounir become the first gay president of an Arab country? </title> ....
11	.... <title> Ireland's new Prime Minister is "Homo" </title> ....
12	.... <title> The Prime Minister of Luxembourg marries his gay friend </title> .....

Appendix 5

English Translation of Concordance (5)

N	Concordance
1	<title> Dutch band boycotting Lebanese festival in solidarity with Leila's Project </title> <title>
2	..... <title> TV-Prohibition of German Gay Film Festival in Ankara </title> ....
3	..... <title> The Governor of Ankara prohibits a gay film festival due to "public security" </title> ....
4	> Uganda prohibits screening a Dutch movie during a film festival because it "promotes homosexuality" </title> ....
5	Religious protests in Romania against the screening of two films on homosexuality </title> ....
6	..... <title> An Emirati filmmaker produces a homosexual movie in the Arab environment </title> ....
7	.. ..<title> Gay movie arouses Lebanese indignation </title> ....
8	<title> Russia imposes restrictions on the screening of the movie "The Beauty and the Beast" because it has homosexial implications </tit
9	itle> Gay scene blocks Disney's "The Beauty and the Beast" movie </title> ....
10	..... <title> Salim Riahi: The Tunisian director's film on lesbians in France does not honor Tunisia </title> ....
11	.... <title> Aziz Rouho "... a bold Tunisian movie about homosexuality </title> ....
12	....<title> A film about a lesbian life for a Tunisian director, wins the "Cannes" gold medal
13	. ...<title> "Asrar Aliyah": the first Egyptian movie on homosexuality at the "Dubai Festival" </title> .....

Appendix 6

English Translation of Concordance (6)

N	Concordance
1	<title> Saudi Arabia rejects a United Nations draft resolution on the rights of homosexuals </title
2	.... <title> Saudi Arabia rejects any interference in its internal affairs or derogation for its Islamic law
3	.... <title> Saudi Arabia rejects the United Nations resolution to allow "homosexuality" </title>
4	.. .. <title> A Saudi man executed for "obscene sodomy" with a male relative </title> .....
5	.... <title> Human Rights Watch urges Tunisia to repeal laws criminalizing homosexuality </title> ....
6	.... <title> Gays in Tunisia demand dignity and freedom via an online magazine </title> .....
7	.... <title> Tunisian opposition lawyer arrested for sodomy </title> .....
8	.... <title> Homosexuals in Lebanon, a broad social group looking for acceptance </title> ....
9	.... <title> Human Rights Watch accuses the Lebanese police of torturing prostitutes and gay men </title> ....
10	.... <title> Report: Lebanese police torture drug addicts, prostitutes and homosexuals </title> .....
11	.... <title> Human Rights Watch »calls on Morocco to decriminalize homosexuality </title> ....
12	.... <title> Morocco jails three for homosexuality </title> .....
13	.... <title> Homosexuals in Morocco: a group that oscillates between tolerance and humiliation </title> .....
14	..... <title> FIFA: Homosexuality is a condition for hosting the Qatar 2020 World Cup </title> ....
15	.... <title> A new scandal .. The Emir of Qatar is looking to allow "homosexuality" in the 2022 World Cup. </title> .....
16	.... <title> Egypt: 33 men arrested on charges of homosexuality </title> ....
17	Amnesty International condemns a draft law criminalizing homosexuality in Egypt </title> ....
18	.... <title> Imprisonment of an Egyptian media person accused of promoting homosexuality! </title> ....
19	. <title> The International Community is concerned about homosexuals in Syria </title> ....
20	.... <title> Al-Manihaila: He was calling for jihad in Syria: arresting an imam who sodomized inside a mosque for 20 dinars </title> .....

Appendix 7

English Translation of Concordance (7)

N	Concordance
1	<title> Malaysian judiciary affirms prison sentence against Anwar Ibrahim on charges of homosexuality
2	.... <title> European Union welcomes the acquittal of the Malaysian opposition leader of "sodomy" charge </title> ....
3	... . <title> France welcomes the acquittal of the Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim of "sodomy" charge </title> .....
4	.... <title> Malaysia: Opposition Leader Convicted of 'Sodomy Charge' </title> .....
5	.... <title> Malaysia executes the first sentence of whipping two lesbians </title> .....
6	"Amnesty International strongly condemns the whipping of two gay men in Indonesia </title> ....
7	.... <title> Two men and a woman were whipped in the Indonesian province of Aceh for violating Islamic law </title> ....
8	.... <title> The Sultanate of Brunei imposes stoning for homosexuality and adultery </title> ....
9	.... <title> The United Nations condemns Brunei "inhuman" laws against homosexuals and adulterers </title> .....

Appendix 8

English Translation of Concordance (8)

N	Concordance
1	<title> Obama warns Uganda of the consequences of enacting a law punishing "homosexuals" </title>
2	World Bank postpones loan to Uganda due to a law criminalizing homosexuality</title> ....
3	..... <title> Uganda criminalizes homosexuality with life imprisonment </title> ....
4	... . <title> Uganda defies America's announcement of sanctions over anti-gay law </title> .....
5	... . <title> Ugandan President: Gay people are "sick" but they do not deserve to be imprisoned </title>
6	... . <title> Uganda prohibits screening of a Dutch movie during a film festival because it "promotes homosexuality"

Appendix 9

English Translation of Concordance (9)

N	Concordance
1	<title> America Praises Botswana Supreme Court Decision Not to Criminalize LGBT Relationship </titl
2	...<title> The United States elects the first gay sex senator </title>
3	<title> Equal legal rights for same-sex American couples </title>
4	<title> Lift the ban on homosexuality in the U.S. Army </title>
5	<title> Gay parade in London marks the 50th anniversary of Britain's decriminalization of homosexuality </title>
6	<title> Britain permits same-sex marriage with benefits equivalent to traditional marriage rights </title>
7	<title> Israel: Netanyahu condemns gay education minister's statements </title>
8	Netanyahu appoints a gay minister of justice for the first time in the history of Israel </title>
9	<title> The left-wing Israeli Meretz Party elected a former lawmaker who declared his homosexuality as its president
10	<title> French League match stopped due to chants against homosexuality </title>
11	<title> France is struggling to appoint gay ambassador to the Vatican </title>
12	<title> France: Government launches campaign against racism and homophobia on Twitter. </title>
13	<title> France: Parliament approves a project of same-sex marriage and adoption for children </title>
14	<title> The German Parliament gives gay couples equal tax rights </title>
15	<title> German Minister of Justice for dpa: homophobia must disappear from society </title>
16	<title> Germany: Criticism of a prominent Catholic cleric describing homosexuals as sick </title>
17	<title> Germany encourages gay players to reveal their truth </title>
18	<title> Greart anger at the Vatican with a priest revealing his homosexuality on the eve of the start of the Synod. </title>
19	...<title> Book: 4 out of 5 priests in the Vatican are homosexuals </title>
20	<title> Vatican: Pope Francis does not consider homosexuality a disease </title>
21	<title> New book on homosexuality scandals at the Vatican </title>
22	...<title> United Nations: India's ban on homosexuality is a violation of international law </title>
23	<title> British actor Ian MacLean: India must mature in its attitudes against homosexuality </title>
24	<title> India recognizes the existence of a "third gender" </title>
25	.<title> Violent clashes between supporters and opponents of homosexuality in Russia </title>
26	<title> The European Court condemns Russia for violating gay rights </title>
27	<title> Homosexual advocates call for stripping Russia of the right to host the 2014 Olympics </title>

About the authors

Linda S. Al-Abbas is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English Language and Literature, Middle East University/ Jordan. Dr. Al-Abbas received her PhD in Linguistics from the University of Jordan/ Jordan. Her main areas of interest include gender studies, discourse analysis, semantics and translation.

Ahmad S. Haider is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English Language and Translation, Applied Science University/ Jordan. Dr Haider received his PhD in Linguistics from the University of Canterbury/ New Zealand. His current research focuses on how political events are socially, discursively and linguistically represented in media combining Corpus Linguistics and (Critical) Discourse Analysis. His main areas of interest include corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, English and Arabic syntax and pragmatics. Dr Haider has built different large Arabic and English corpora. He professionally masters different Corpus Linguistic software packages such as Wordsmith (Mike Scott), AntConc (Laurence Anthony), Sketch Engine (Adam Kilgarriff) and some others. Ahmad S. Haider is the corresponding author and can be contacted at: ah_haider86@yahoo.com

For instructions on how to order reprints of this article, please visit our website:
www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/licensing/reprints.htm
Or contact us for further details: **permissions@emeraldinsight.com**