Naming and Describing in the Representation of English and Arabic Para Athletes: A Critical Stylistic Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This article uses Jeffries' (2010) approach of naming and describing to examine the linguistic portrayal of male and female Para Athletes as social actors in selected English and Arabic Paralympic Sport Magazines. It seeks to uncover the stylistic choices used in these magazines to establish the identity of Para Athletes and the influence of gender and disability on the depiction of people with disabilities in sports. The study is based on the analysis of selected articles from English and Arabic magazines related to the field of Para sport and issued between 2016 and 2020. To achieve the research objectives, the study hypothesizes that both English and Arabic texts positively name and describe Para Athletes as more individualists than collectivists with different gender preferences. The findings of this study indicate that Para Athletes are mostly included and activated as individual social actors. Para Athletes are generally praised for their sports involvement and accomplishments. Nonetheless, English females are more represented in collectivization than males, but less in individualization, positive appraisal, positive emotions, and affiliation. However, Arabic texts name and describe females more than males in individualization, collectivization, and pleasant emotions, although they are less represented in positive evaluation.
Keywords: Critical Stylistic Analysis, Social Actors, Naming and describing, Para Athletes, Paralympic sport

التمسية والوصف في تمثيل الرياضيين البارالمبين في الإنجليزية والعربية: تحليل أسلوبي نقدي

A. D. Nasir ibn Nayzi al-Zaidi

الملخص

تستخدم هذا المقال إحدى أدوات الأسلوبية النقدية للجينر (2010) وهي الوظيفة المفاهيمية النصية والوصف لدراسة طريقة البناء اللغوي لهوية الذكور والأثاث من الرياضيين البارالمبين كفاعليين اجتماعيين في مجلات رياضية مختارة باللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية. ويهدف إلى تحديد استراتيجيات الأسلوبية المستخدمة في هذه المجلات المختارة في تمثيلا النصي لرياضة الرياضيين البارالميين وتأثير الجسد وإعاقة في هذا التمثال. وتركز الدراسة على تحليل 10 مقالات إنجليزية و10 مقالات عربية من مجلات إنجليزية وعربية تتعلق بمجال الرياضة البارالمبية صدرت بين عامي 2016 و2020. ولتحقيق أهداف البحث، تفترض الدراسة أن كلا النصيين الإنجليزي والعريبي يمكن تسمية ووصف الرياضيين البارالميين بشكل إيجابي كأثاث أكثر منهم في مجموعات مع الاختلاف في التفاعل بين الجنسين. تشير نتائج هذه الدراسة إلى أن الرياضيين البارالميين يتم تضمينهم وتشييدهم في الغالب كعناصر اجتماعية فردية فاعلة. يتضمن وصف الرياضيين البارالميين في الغالب تعليماتهم الإيجابية ومشاعرهم الإيجابية على أنها مشغولة بمشاركتهم وإنجازاتهم الرياضية. ومع ذلك، فإن الإناث في النصوص الإنجليزية أقل تمثيلاً من نظرائهم الذكور من حيث الفردية والتقدير الإيجابي والمشاعر الإيجابية والانتماء، ومع ذلك، فإن تمثيلاً من حيث الجماعية أعلى من الذكور. أما في النصوص العربية، فإن تسمية الإناث ووصفهن أكثر من الذكور في التفرد والجماعية والمشاعر الإيجابية، ومع ذلك، يتم تمثيلهن بشكل أقل وفقاً لتقييمهم الإيجابي.

ال|$1. Introduction$

The representation of People with disabilities (henceforth PWDs) in literature and non-literary media is underrepresented (DePauw and Gavron, 1995: 255). Scholars of disability have repeatedly pointed to the importance of language as a vehicle that might reflect or influence attitudes towards disability (Mallett and Slater 2014: 91-4). Hermeston (2017: 37) asserts that disability discourse has not yet undergone a
comprehensive investigation of the linguistic structures and resources utilized in media discourses. In this context, Hermeston argues that critical stylistics of disability will uncover the linguistic patterns that encode PWDs as usually portrayed as socially deviant. He further suggests that the analysis of linguistic resources such as noun phrases, transitivity, and the language of appraisal and evaluation can reveal how ideas and stereotypes of PWDs are encoded (Ibid., 46–54). Therefore, critical stylistic analysis studies a wide array of linguistic structures that can encode discourse suited to reveal the linguistic means by which certain values, stereotypes, and beliefs about Para Athletes’ traits such as gender and disability are communicated by the media. In the current article, the TCF of naming and describing is utilized to examine the representation of male and female Para Athletes in selected English and Arabic Paralympic sport magazines. These magazines represent a progressive media genera in its representation of PWDs in sport, thus they have a deviant style from the traditional media. It aims to identify the stylistic strategies employed in these selected magazines in their textual representation to construct the identity of Para Athletes and the effect of gender and disability on the representation. Given the assumption that Para Athletes may be represented differently based on gender and disability (Schantz and Gilbert, 2001: 74–75), the fact that culture influences attitudes toward PWDs, and the paucity of research on cross-cultural differences in media coverage of Para sport (Chang, 2009: 90), the current study examines the representation of Para athletes in selected English and Arabic Paralympic sport magazines in terms of the TCF of naming and describing.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Critical Stylistics

Jeffries (2010) calls her framework "The Power of English" but she says it can be applied to other languages because its functions can be
applied to different language levels, such as syntactic, lexical, semantic, pragmatic, or textual. Therefore, several previous studies, such as Al–Timimi’s (2018) and Hasan’s (2019), found that applying Jeffries’ CS tools on English and Arabic texts seems workable to conduct a contrastive analysis. To analyze and explain the different styles in which influencing strategies are included in literary and non–literary texts and reveal their writers’ deeply ingrained values, Jeffries (2010) introduces CS through the amalgamation of stylistic analysis with functional linguistics and CDA. Jeffries’ approach uses miscellaneous tools from these disciplines to fulfil its aims. Jeffries (2010: 12–14) raises a basic question on how non–literary texts are processed in relation to ideology. To answer this question, there is a need for a framework that must: (1) describe the formal characteristics of a text, (2) demonstrate the importance of their function, and (3) interpret them objectively. To meet the three requirements stated in the previous section. Hence, Jeffries (2015: 382) suggests a straightforward framework for analyzing the hidden ideologies (concepts) embedded in textual creation. The foundation of this paradigm is the 'Textual Conceptual Function' (henceforth TCF), which explains how the text develops different features of the world using 10 tools. These tools are Naming and describing, Representing Actions/ Events/ States, Prioritizing, Presenting opinions and speech, Hypothesizing, Equating and constructing, Enumerating and exemplifying, Assuming and implying, and Constructing time and space. According to Jeffries (2010: 16), these ten tools seem to be somewhere on the borderline between the formal and the functional aspects of language. Since all forms of texts express a unique conceptual foundation with the intent of influencing the text recipient (Ibid. 51), the tools are provided to help the reader discover that ideological content (Ibid. 16). CS devices also guide text to help writers and producers achieve their goals. (Al–Janabi and Al–Marsumi, 2021:
Hermeston (2017: 45) further maintains that CS of disability should be applicable to media texts. As a result, it is critical to consider the various forms of disability representations that can emerge from a given context (such as disability sport) and to understand how such representations create meanings (Ibid.). One such representation is that of the TCF of transitivity which is the focus of the current article. Therefore, this study takes the initiative to analyze selected texts from two different languages and cultures, i.e., English, and Arabic Paralympic sport media texts in terms of the TCF of representing actions/events and states (transitivity).

2.2 Media Discourse and Paralympic Sport

According to Caldwell, et al. (2016: 4), the pursuit of describing the language features in sport is not intended for the understanding of language description alone. The language of sport is analyzed since sport communicates ideas and information about the world (Ibid.). Furthermore, Beard (1998: 17) asserts that the language of sport shows how sport reflects the broader world around us. Hence, he examines the language of sport talk, including commentary and modern sports writing, to address themes including gender, identity, and the role of sports in social solidarity. However, Beard (1998: 84) claims that some sports texts attempt to convince readers to adopt a particular viewpoint. Conversely, the language of sport is still regarded by some conservative circles of cultural experts as marginal or even unserious (Beard, 1998: 1), despite the most obvious fact that sport is one of the most expressive and concrete manifestations of contemporary culture (Coakley, 2009: 43). It might be alleged that sport has no literature worthy of note. This argument, though, is a sterile one—what is and is not literature is a purely subjective matter. According to Beard (1998: 2), the language of sport has its own distinct genre of writing designs and patterns in the language from which it is made. Similarly, Alege
(2018:77) argues that the selection of words, phrases, and sentences is deliberate and employed to accomplish specific impacts on the reader. In the context of sports media texts, writing across different means of print media, such as magazines, remains a significant mode of communication (Stockwell and Whiteley, 2014: 504). Sports writing, however, comes in many forms and serves many purposes. It is much better to look at a specific type of writing, then find some points for investigation (Beard, 1998: 83). An important and focused example of this sort of writing is about the Paralympic sport.

The Paralympic Movement is motivated by four fundamental principles: **Courage, Determination, Inspiration, and Equality** (IPC, 1989). These values put an emphasis on Para athletes, their abilities, and their achievements, as Para athletes serve as positive examples for these visions and goals. The IPC incorporated these values into its Constitution and applied them as the foundation for this “**Strategic Plan**” (Ibid.). In this regard, Para athletes and the PGs are central to the Paralympic Movement, as their accomplishments and amazing stories inform the values of respect and recognition for PWDs. As a result, in order to reconstruct societal consciousness of comprehending and acknowledging Para athletes, they sometimes rely on dedicated and appropriate media coverage (Schantz and Gilbert, 2001: 73). Because of the media’s depiction of disabilities and disability sports, many people are unaware of the Paralympic movement discourse (Ibid.). Media reporting of the Paralympics was unimpressive, however, since the beginning of the new millennium, several scholars began examining the corresponding benefits and drawbacks of what has come to be known as the superhero narrative with its characteristically inspiring narratives of Para athletes challenging the adversities to deliver optimal athletic achievements (Hardin and Hardin, 2004: 29). Such discourse then brings about the inspiration that the inconceivable is actually viable.
Thus, as Rees et al. (2019: 378) assert, it is essential to mention the media’s pivotal role in shaping public perceptions of disabilities. Pullen, et al. (2019: 4) also affirm that, in illustrating disability, journalists choose what to report and how to communicate these representations to broad audiences. Therefore, it is expected that the topic of Paralympic Discourse will take on a positive perspective that consists of the IPC values and identity, which serves to portray Para Athletes in their media.

2. Methodology

2.1 Data Sampling

The present study is an attempt to analyze the TCF of naming and describing employed in the English and Arabic representation of Para Athletes in 10 English articles and 10 Arabic articles published between 2016 and 2020 in English and Arabic magazines (Appendices 1 and 13). The English magazines include The Paralympian, the official magazine of the Paralympic Movement worldwide issued in Germany, and Agility magazine which focuses on disability sports issued in the UK. The Arabic magazines include Al-Hemam, a Para sport-related magazine published in the UAE, and Paralympiad, the first magazine of its kind in Iraq to cover Para sport and the activities of Para Athletes. Selecting these magazines and not others was motivated by the claims that PWDs in general and Para Athletes in specific are not represented as they would like to be represented in the traditional media. Therefore, this study is considered an attempt to gain insights on the style followed by these Para sport magazines in their representation of Para Athletes and by extension PWDs in general.

2.2 Analysis Procedures

This section presents the textual analysis of naming and describing of Para Athletes through examining the choice of nouns, noun modification and nominalization. According to Jeffries (2010: 20), these three primary linguistic practices are of interest to the TCF of naming
and describing in critical stylistics (Ibid.). Concerning the choice of nouns, van Leeuwen's (2008) framework of Social Actors is utilized to examine what patterns are utilized to form the identity of Para Athletes, such as, personalized/impersonalized, specified/generalized, and what type of identity such textual patterns create. Utilizing van Leeuwen’s frameworks is due to the notion that discourse makers ideologically construct social actors in discourse to express their perceptions towards them. According to van Leeuwen's approach, social actors, as a discourse analytical category, are viewed as textual representations of both individual and collective representations of the self and others. As for noun modification, following Jeffries (2010: 20), noun choice and modification act in tandem to get the required effects for uniquely identifying individuals, hence modification is a part of the naming process. Typically, when naming anything in noun phrases, the nominal reference paired with pre- or post-modifiers is the primary method of construction. For example, the adjectives that authors employ to describe a thing or event show their state of mind toward it. For appropriate results in analyzing the textual instances of modification in the text selected, Biber et al.'s (2000: 508) classification is considered. Accordingly, two primary semantic categories of adjectives exist: descriptors and classifiers. Descriptors are adjectives that can describe various characteristics, from color and size to age and mood. Classifiers, on the other hand, primarily delineate or restrict a noun's referent by categorizing it with respect to other referents; hence, they are divided into affiliative, relational, and other miscellaneous thematic subclasses. (Ibid.). With respect to nominalization, Jeffries (2010: 25) affirms that nominalized verbs are used for packaging up ideological content in the head noun itself by utilizing morphological processes to turn a process into a state. Further, Fowler (1991: 80) maintains that nominalization allows for 'habits of concealment' by transforming a process into
nominal, which lacks tense, modality, and agency. In addition, Jeffries (2007: 62) asserts that nominalization creates existential presupposition, which establishes identity because it is not integral to the sentence proposition. However, Jeffries (2015: 6) argues that not all ideational meanings are necessarily ideologically loaded (Ibid.). In this regard, Fakhri (2012: 148) confirms that nominalization is highly appropriate because it affords a structure that permits the use of various evaluative terms meant to enhance one's position. The analysis of the TCF of naming and describing in both English and Arabic is detailed in the following sub–sections.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 TCF of Naming and Describing in the English and Arabic Texts

A detailed analysis of the components of this function in the two languages uncovers a significant correspondence between them in terms of choice of nouns, noun modification, and nominalization.

3.1.1 Choice of Nouns

In the English and Arabic texts, the representation of Para Athletes indicates a preference to Specify (individualize and assimilate) and personalize (functionalize, identify, and nominate) Para Athletes. It can also be maintained that even in the cases of Impersonalization and Genericization, Para Athletes are positively represented.

3.1.1.1 Specification and Genericization

In the English and Arabic texts, Appendix ( ) shows that Para Athletes are frequently represented through Specification with a distribution of 60 % for English and 58 % for Arabic. In contrast, Genericization is realized with a distribution of only 4 % for English and 1 % for Arabic distributed among both males and females. In terms of Specification, Para Athletes are mostly individualized and assimilated in both languages. As shown in Table (1) below, Individualization is predominantly utilized.
Table (1): The Distribution of Specification vs Genericization in the English and Arabic Texts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Categories</th>
<th>Subcategories</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Σ%</td>
<td>Σ%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specification</td>
<td>Collectivization</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plurality</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nouns</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First-person plural</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aggregation</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individualization</td>
<td>Singlency</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nouns</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First-person singular</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Σ%</td>
<td>319 (60%)</td>
<td>275 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genericization</td>
<td>Σ%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Table (1) above, Specification is further subcategorized into individualization and assimilation. In terms of individualization, the English texts individualize Para Athletes with a distribution of 40% distributed as 16% for the females and 24% for the males. On the other hand, the Arabic texts individualize Para Athletes with 36% distributed as 20% for the females and 16% for the males. As for assimilation, the English texts assimilate Para Athletes with a distribution of 20% distributed as 15% for the females and 5% for the males, whereas the Arabic texts assimilate Para Athletes with a distribution of 23% distributed as 15% for the females and 8% for the males. These distributions are illustrated in Figure (1) below.
Figure (1): Specification in the English and Arabic Texts.

With respect to Individualisation in English and Arabic texts, Para Athletes are mostly represented using first–person singular pronouns constituting references that Para Athletes make to themselves. In addition to these pronouns, the English texts also include instances of NPs referring to their unique qualities. In terms of gender differences, Figure (1) above illustrates that males are more individualized (24 %) than females (16%). In contrast, females are more assimilated (15 %) than males (5 %) in the English texts. On the other hand, Figure (60) above also shows that females are more individualized (20 %) than males (16 %); however, females are also more assimilated (15 %) than males (8 %) in the Arabic texts. In addition, Table (53) above also shows an interesting disparity in using the first–person singular (15 % for females, 22 % for males) and first–person plural pronouns (7 % for females, 1 % for males) in the English texts. On the other hand, the Arabic texts also show disparity between males and females in using the first–person singular (18 % for females, 12 % for males) and first–person plural pronouns (5 % for females, 1 % for males). The above statistical findings reveal that the English texts specify males through individualization more than females. In the Arabic texts, females are the ones who are specified through individualization more than males. Still, in both languages, females are more specified by assimilation than their male counterparts. Nevertheless, the individualization of both males and females, which amounts to 40% in English and 36 % in Arabic, outweighs the assimilation (20% for English and 23% for Arabic). Therefore, in the English and Arabic texts, Para Athletes are predominantly depicted as individuals; and to a lesser extent, they are depicted as collectivized within groups. Appendices (2, 3, 14, and 15) show that the English and Arabic text producers tend to individualize Para Athletes in terms of their sports, social functions, and disabilities.
As for Assimilation, Collectivization, one of the two subcategories of Assimilation, is highly employed in both languages for females and males with relative differences. The analysis reveals that Para Athletes are mostly collectivized in terms of sport, social status, and nationhood. This can be an indication of their inclusion as an essential component of the Paralympic Movement. Also, in both languages, Para Athletes are aggregated through their number of achievements and ranking in competitions. In aggregation, there is a relative difference between males and females where the achievements and ranking of males slightly overweight those of females.

3.1.1.2 Personalization and Impersonalization

In the English and Arabic texts, Table (2) below shows that Para Athletes are represented through Personalization with a distribution of 29 % for English and 32 % for Arabic, whereas Impersonalization is realized with a distribution of only 7 % in both English and Arabic, distributed among both males and females. (Appendices 4, 5, 6, 16, 17, and 18). In terms of Personalization, Para Athletes are mostly functionalized and nominated in both languages. In Impersonalization, Para Athletes are mostly objectified. Table (2 below recapitulates the statistical distributions of English and Arabic texts in terms of Personalization vs. Impersonalization.

Table (2): The Distribution of Personalization vs Impersonalization in the English and Arabic Texts.
In the English texts, Para Athletes are represented in terms of their function with a distribution of 13% of the total naming strategies, whereas in the Arabic text, Functionalization occurs with a distribution of 11% of the total naming strategies. In both languages, functionalization incorporates ability and activation by means of the agent nouns used, athleticism by means of professional sport practiced, and disability by means of the indicators (para, wheelchairs, etc.). The analysis also reveals instances of social functionalization that represent Para Athletes as engaged in some social activities other than sports. Thus, Para Athletes are defined mainly by functionalization as members of a positively perceived category. Therefore, most functionalization elements refer to a multidimensional Para Athletic Identity (PAI) that involves athleticism, disability, ability, and attachment (inclusion). It can be argued that illustrating Para Athletes by means of functionalization is an indicative representation in order to functionalize PWDs in their communities since being an athlete is just an example of the suggested roles. Such representation may function as a prototype reflecting PWDs’ potential to be placed in a job where they could function and develop to the best of their ability (Naude, 2006: 4). Therefore, Para Athletes might be functionally identified as a successful model for PWDs (Ibid., 10).

Another theme of PAI that is labelled means of personalization is that of disability. Disability is labelled by physical identification signifying their disabilities and classification identification signifying the sports that suit their disabilities. The latter category seems to function as a bridge between athleticism and disability. For both languages, it can be said that the role of personalization targets the core themes of Para Athletes’ PAI, athleticism, disability, and social engagement.

With respect to Nomination, Appendix (8 and 20) illustrates that Para Athletes are mostly nominated either by means of their semi–formal names, informal names, and formal names. The Arabic text
producers seem to utilize surnames so that Para Athletes would be viewed as more prominent and dignified. Consequently, they are considered as more distinguished and more deserving of eminence-related rewards and honors (Atir and Ferguson, 2018: 7278). The low distribution of females’ formal and informal names is due to the employment of semi-formal names for females, which overweighs the males’ distribution. Also, the analysis of specification and genericization reveals a higher distribution for females than males. Generally speaking, Para Athletes’ nomination can be interpreted by means of inclusion since they are represented as social actors who are directly identified.

In terms of gender, it seems that males are more functionalized than their female counterparts in both English and Arabic texts. It means that males are privileged to females in this subcategory, as shown in Figure (2) below.

![Figure (2): Personalization in the English and Arabic Texts.](image)

It can be noted in Figure (2) above that Para Athletes are included as they are functionalized, identified, and nominated in both English and Arabic texts. However, Figure (2) above also reveals a privilege for the males, as mentioned above. Such a finding confirms Quinn’s (2007) claim of a unidimensional representation where male athletes are represented more often and more favorably.

Regarding Para Athletes’ PAI, in both languages, athleticism, disability, social inclusion, and challenges are labelled mainly by using Specification categories of which individualization is dominant over assimilation.
3.1.2 Noun Modification

In terms of noun modification, it seems that description mainly focuses on aspects of sport performance more than any other aspect. In other words, the selected English and Arabic magazines use a more fact-oriented style than an emotional style in representing Para Athletes (Appendices 10, 11, 22, and 23). This evaluating style, which is employed more than other categories of modification, may reflect the meaning that the adopted means of persuading their readers is the more objective and impartial style in both English and Arabic magazines.

Table (3) below shows that though insignificant, Arabic magazines are more evaluative than their English counterparts. Further, the use of noun modification in Arabic is relatively higher than its use in English. It might reflect the writing style of Arabic magazines which is marked by the extensive use of adjectives.

**Table (3): The Distribution of Para Athlete Description in the English and Arabic Texts.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun Modification</th>
<th>The Semantic group of adjectives</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Descriptors</td>
<td>F Σ (%)</td>
<td>M Σ (%)</td>
<td>M&amp;F Σ (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affect</td>
<td>Positive Affect</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
<td>(16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative Affect</td>
<td>(1%)</td>
<td>(1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluative</td>
<td>Positive Evaluative</td>
<td>(24%)</td>
<td>(31%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative Evaluative</td>
<td>(3%)</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classifiers</td>
<td>Affiliative</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous typical</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (3) above shows, in the English texts, Para Athletes are positively represented with descriptors of evaluation (53%), affect (26%), and affiliation classifiers (15%). On the other hand, in the Arabic texts, Para Athletes are positively represented with descriptors of evaluation (55%), affect (9%), and affiliation classifiers (17%). These distributions indicate that Para Athletes are, for the most part, positively evaluated. However, the English texts show more positive emotions and reactions (affect) than their counterparts in the Arabic texts.
In terms of gender, in the English texts, female Para Athletes are evaluated with a distribution of 23 %, which is lower than males who are evaluated with 30 %. The distribution of positive affect descriptors of female Para Athletes amounts to 10 %, which is lower than that of their male counterparts, which amounts to 16 %. However, the females have an affiliative descriptors distribution of 10 %, whereas the males show only 5 % of affiliative descriptions. On the other hand, in the Arabic texts, the positive evaluative descriptors constitute 25 % for females, which is lower than those used for males whose distribution amounts to 30%. As for the distribution of affective adjectives, it shows no significant difference, with 4% for females and 5% for males. However, 3 % of negative affective adjectives appear in the texts of males. As for the negative evaluative descriptors, they appear in the texts of females with a distribution of 8 %, whereas in the texts of males, the distribution of these descriptors amounts to only 1 %. Also, females have an affiliative descriptor distribution of 8 %, whereas females show 9 % of affiliative descriptions. Based on the above statistics, both English and Arabic texts favor the use of positive evaluation and affect descriptors over negative ones. Figure (3) below further illustrates these distributions.

Figure (3): Para Athlete Description in the English and Arabic Texts.
It can be noted in Figure (3) above, the English texts evaluate males more than females, which might be because males’ achievements and accomplishments are more than that of their female counterparts. However, this might not be the case in Arabic where females are more evaluated than males. In other words, evaluating females’ sport achievements in Arabic could be attributed to their peculiarity (heroine).

Concerning affects, male Para Athletes seem more motivated by competition and winning than their female counterparts. It indicates that they are more emotional about their enjoyment when participating in competitions. Arabic magazines show no significant difference between males and females with regard to Affect descriptors. As for affiliative descriptors, the modification involves classifier adjectives that affiliate Para Athletes to their countries, indicating the involvement of nationhood as an essential factor of their identity. Female Para Athletes seem to be prouder of their nationhood than males. This reflects a tendency of English magazines towards illustrating females’ inclusion more than males, and it might indicate the efforts to eliminate women’s exclusion. As for the affiliative descriptors used in the Arabic magazines, they mainly indicate that male Para Athletes are represented with more pride in their nationhood than their female counterpart. This variation can be attributed to the way females appreciate themselves as being in peer groups (Para Athletes group) more than the nationhood identity as shown in the case of assimilation (Table 3). With regard to the theme of national pride, McGillivray, et. al, (2019) believe that national pride may be traced back to the development and rise in popularity of the games and the growing war–related injuries. As a result, one could say that the rise in the number of female Para Athletes drives them to have a stronger sense of patriotism. This is because of the war–related injuries that have rendered them disabled. In the general sense, in both languages, as shown in (Appendices 10, 11, 22, and 23), for the most
part, noun modification depicts Para Athletes as satisfied, confident, motivated, courageous, abled, athletically, and socially competent, talented, important for their communities, proud of their peer groups and nationhood. Such attributes are used as unquestionable and given identifying traits into the head nouns and modification of the noun phrases. These attributes are congruent with the concept of the Affirmative model of disability because they represent the athletes’ positive attitudes towards disability and its relation to Para sports. The derived conclusions obtained from the function of noun modification support Goguen’s (2011) findings where he claims a slight improvement in the newspaper coverage of athletes with impairments.

3.1.3 Nominalization

In terms of the types of nominalizations, both languages reveal a preference for using action/state nominalization with a higher distribution for the benefit of the selected English magazines. Among the first type of nominalization, action nominalization appears to be the highest frequent type compared to other types of nominalizations. It indicates that Para Athletes are realized, in terms of their activities, as tangible and uncontested in both languages. Table (4) below illustrates the statistical distributions of nominalization in the selected English and Arabic magazines.

Table (4): The Distribution of Nominalization in the English and Arabic Texts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominalization Type</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deverbal Dynamic</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deverbal Stative</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De–Adjectival</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agentive</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σ</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As for gender, in the English texts, no significant difference is found in using dynamic nominalization. However, stative nominalization seems to be more used for females than males. It might reflect that they are less active than their male counterparts, which is a thing that is not due to the misrepresentation of females in the field of Para sports. Interestingly, in the Arabic texts, males appear more represented as stative than females. Regarding the de–adjectival nominalization, Arabic texts outnumber this category with a noticeable distribution that overweighs the males. Concerning agentive nominalization, the Arabic texts also overweight English in this category which might reflect the writers’ tendency to incorporate actions using agentive nominalization. However, there is also a difference in the use of agentive nominalization for the benefit of females. It may refer to the writers’ intention to depict females’ activity as they need to enhance their roles more than males.

It can be said that, for the most part, personalization and specification, noun modification, and nominalization represent different traits of Para Athletes, such as athleticism, ability, and disability. Further, the frequent use of personalization also carries some social implications related to the value of sport in the life of Para Athletes. This is due to the rehabilitative effect that sport can have not only on the physical body but also on the rehabilitation of PWDs into society since independence is taught through sport. These meanings derived from the use of noun choices illustrate the tendency of The Paralympian and Agility magazines to employ the idea of Para Athletic Identity (PAI) (Guerrero and Martin, 2018), which is an affirmative amalgamated representation of athletic ability (sporting excellence and other social roles) disability, social roles as activists, and educational models. In terms of the correlation between the types of nominalizations used and the components of Para Athletes’ PAI, ability appears to be the most often identified theme, followed by athleticism, themes of pride and self–
esteem, nouns connected to their social relationships, and finally, nouns related to Para Athletes' disabilities and their struggles, barriers, and to a lesser extent, adversities (Appendix 12). In Arabic, athleticism, social engagement, challenges, abilities, pride, self-esteem, and finally, disabilities are the most prominent themes signified by the nominalization function (Appendix 24). The analysis reveals that the selected English and Arabic magazines show more convergence in the functions of nominalization, which perhaps suggests a universal tendency toward the representation of Para Athletes. (Fakhri, 2012: 148). Consequently, the development of PAI might be able to assist people with disabilities in redefining themselves, which would result in less social marginalization. By doing so, they not only prove to themselves and society that they are true athletes but also that they can manage the effects of their condition effectively. It can be noted that the naming of Para Athletes is mainly related to the positive blended identity (social and AI) which is in agreement with the concept of the Affirmative model of disability (Hu, et al., 2021). The positive blended identity also agrees with Guerrero and Martin’s (2018) concept of Para Athletic Identity (PAI).

4. Textual Identity and Representation

The textual analysis reveals that the English and the Arabic magazines represent Para Athletes in such a way that can be described as progressive and optimistic through the positive choices of the TCF of naming and describing in terms of which, Para Athletes are mostly specified and personalized in both languages. Within the Specification style, they are primarily individualized and, to a lesser extent, assimilated, whereas, in Personalization, Para Athletes are functionalized, identified and nominated. According to van Leeuwen (2008: 37), the middle-class-oriented press tends to individualize elite persons and assimilate ordinary people, while the working-class–
oriented press often individualizes ordinary people. Likewise, Al–Dilaemy (1998. P.VIII) affirms that the Arab traditional mentality tends to refer to generic rather than non–specific concepts. Van Leeuwen (Ibid., 38) maintains that some texts tend to individualize participants only when they are elite and strong persons and collectivize participants who are members of a homogeneous and consensual group. Thus, when participants are individualized, the text typically showcases their titles, credentials, and institutional affiliations. However, van Leeuwen (Ibid., 48) argues that there are other occasions where the transition from individualization to collectivization can signify a team of fiercely independent people who may work for love, justice, or honor; who are technically competent and highly organized; and form a tightly knit elite with a robust code of solidarity within the group. Van Leeuwen (Ibid.) illustrates how a group of “professional heroes” and their achievements can be linked to several social practices and the social actors involved in that team. Thus the “professional heroes” can represent various actors in actual social practices, such as working to protect the “weak society.” Further, van Leeuwen asserts that nomination and/or physical identification, which stand for classification or functionalization, can further signify a unique determination, and eventually eliminate economic and cultural marginalization (Grue, 2011: 533). It follows that Para Athletes, whether individualized or collectivized, can be included by their qualifications and affiliations. Therefore, in the English and Arabic selected texts, Para Athletes are included and determined by their achievements, abilities and talents, independence, pride and self–esteem, challenges, and societal inclusion. However, in the English texts, the labels are primarily used to mark themes that illustrate Para Athletes’ ability, athleticism, pride, self–esteem, and, to a lesser extent, their disabilities and the barriers facing them. These themes are also used in naming Para Athletes in Arabic texts but in addition to the
themes of barriers, adversities, and social expectations. What is common in both representations is the minimal representation of disability. Both languages mostly and systematically appreciate Para Athletes’ sport performance and achievements and, to a lower extent, their emotions and affiliations. It can be noted that in the TCF of naming and describing, the dominant conceptual representation is one of empowering and promoting. Through Specification, Para Athletes are determined as individualized, named and assimilated social actors whose activities are represented and foregrounded, and hence included (van Leeuwen 2008: 29). They are included mainly by their achievements in and outside sport, abilities, and talents, independence, pride and self-esteem, challenges, and societal inclusion. Such premises indicate the employment of a strong PAI that is primarily positive. Through Personalization, Para Athletes are given an important status not as PWDs but as eligible athletes, especially in using their names in conjunction with their functions, emphasizing their status as individuals (van Leeuwen, 2008: 52–54). In addition, their disabilities are positively invested through classifying these disabilities in such a way that identifies each type of impairment, for both males and females, as eligible to practice a specific type of sport adapted to any kind of disability. In other words, naming the disability according to what is possible rather than the impossible. Therefore, in most of cases, Para Athletes are represented by their names and functionalization as members of a positively perceived identity as functional and achievers who are proud of their national identity. Hence, Para Athletes’ Identity is constructed using the textual naming and describing as a positive reflection of the PAI identity and by extension, the application of the Affirmative model of disability.
5. Gender Identity and Representation

With respect to the representation of gender, the analysis of the TCF of naming and describing in the selected English magazines reveals that females in the English texts are less represented than their male counterparts in terms of functionalization, evaluation, and affect, however, the females’ representation in terms of assimilation and affiliation is higher than males. On the other hand, the Arabic texts show a privilege for females within functionalization, assimilation and evaluation, however, they are less represented according to their affiliation and affect than males. It can be noted that females in the Arabic magazines occupy more representation than their female counterparts in the English ones. In other words, in the English magazines, the males are more represented than their female counterparts in terms of functionality, evaluation, affect. On the other hand, in the Arabic magazines, the males are more represented than their female counterparts in terms of affiliation, affect. In all of other types of representation, females are represented as equal or more than their male counterparts. It follows that the males are privileged over the females in the English magazines, whereas in the Arabic ones, the females have the privilege of affirmative representation.

6. Conclusions

In the lights of the findings of the multimodal critical stylistic analysis conducted above, a set of conclusions are drawn out at both the textual and visual levels.

1. Concerning the TCF of naming and describing, in both languages, Para Athletes are mostly named and described by means of individualization as the most predominant way to identify Para Athletes whose individuality emphasized as independent individuals. To a lower extent, Para Athletes are also collectivized by virtue of their sport teams, social status and nationhood. Thus, Para Athletes are included and
activated as individual social actors. The description of Para Athletes mostly involves their positive evaluation and positive emotions as being motivated by their sport participations and achievements. Nevertheless, the females in the English texts are less represented than their male counterparts in terms of individualization, positive evaluation, positive emotions, and affiliation, however, their representation in terms of collectivization is higher than the males. On the other hand, in the Arabic texts, females are named and described more than males within individualization, collectivization and positive emotions, however, they are less represented according to their positive evaluation. Henceforth, hypothesis No.1 is validated.

2. The textual description of Para Athletes, mainly, focuses on aspects of sport performance more than any other aspect. In other words, the selected magazines employ factually rather than emotionally oriented style to describe Para Athletes. The factual evaluative style is employed more than the other categories of modification; it mostly occurs in positively evaluating sporting achievements of Para Athletes more than their positive reactions to such achievements. Eventually, this kind of style is adopted to attract the readers’ attention towards the Para Athletes’ achievements in both English and Arabic magazines.

3. In terms of nominalizations, both languages reveal a preference for using action/state nominalization with a higher distribution in favor of the English magazines. The most frequent instances of action/state nominalization are those of ability, athleticism, pride and self-esteem, social relations, and to a lesser extent, disabilities, challenges, and social barriers. The results show that the selected English and Arabic magazines exhibit more convergence with respect to the functions of nominalization suggesting a universal tendency towards the representation of Para Athletes. These conclusions validate the hypothesis that both the English and Arabic texts positively name and
describe Para Athletes as more individualists than collectivists with different gender preferences.

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**Appendices**

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