



Woman in Culture and Arts

Representation of the Discourse of the Social Status of Women in the Newspaper of the Republic of Tunis based on the Critical Approach of Fairclough: A Case Study of Misbehavior against Women

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p>Article type: Research Article</p> <p>Article history: Received: 30 September 2024 Received in revised form: 23 November 2024 Accepted: 29 December 2024 Published online: 30 March 2026</p> <p>Keywords: <i>Al-Jomhouria Newspaper, Critical Discourse Analysis, Norman Fairclough, Tunisia, Women's Social Issues.</i></p>	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The global issue of violence and misbehavior against women is presently acknowledged as one of the major social problems that has expanded in scope and penetrated various domains. The term “misconduct,” which is also referred to as “violence against women,” is not limited to physical assault; rather, it incorporates any action or attack that causes harm to women in various dimensions, including physical, emotional, psychological, verbal, sexual, and more. This social phenomenon exists in all countries, and the Arab world is no exception. In the Arab world, Tunisia has witnessed significant advancements and transformations concerning women's status.</p> <p>The improvement of social relations between genders has been significantly facilitated by the development of legislation in this country. as a result of the qualitative leap toward achieving gender equality and eradicating discrimination against women that has occurred since the 1960s, following the enactment of the Personal Status Code on August 13, 1956, the project of women’s liberation has been positioned as one of the most important initiatives in the establishment of a modern state. The issue of violence continues to be one of the most significant vulnerabilities in the legal arsenal and policies that are designed to support and empower women’s rights and freedoms, given the significance of laws that pertain to women. In Tunisia, the state is required to safeguard the rights of women and implement measures to prevent violence against women, as female and male citizens are treated equally under the law in terms of rights and obligations. Nevertheless, a diverse array of malfeasance and violence against women persists in this country. Therefore, , Tunisian women continue to face marginalization, discrimination, and abuse, despite the existence of laws that are advantageous to them. Considering the media's effects on values, the current research seeks to reveal the implicit ideology guiding the Tunisian society in the issue of misbehavior against women. This article examines the ideological approaches employed in the Al-Jomhouria Newspaper of Tunisia in this sphere, in accordance with Fairclough’s theory. The headings and text of the news in these newspapers are examined. This essay aims to address the following inquiries by examining Fairclough’s critical discourse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. According to Fairclough’s index, how is the hegemonic ideology depicted in the discourse of Al-Jomhouria newspaper regarding violence against women? 2. In regard to the three elements of Fairclough, which language methods and techniques has the Al-Jomhouria Newspaper used to highlight its intended meanings in the context of violence against women? 3. The article “Feminism in Tunisia and addressing violence against women from the viewpoint of Karidif” (Hajar al-Mansouri, 2016). 4. The article “Feminism in Tunisia and addressing violence against women from the viewpoint of Karidif” (Hajar al-Mansouri, 2016).

The article “Domestic Violence Against Women in the Time of the Kovid19 Pandemic” (Bisha Hassan, 2020).

The article “Violence against women, its image and mechanisms of legal protection in the light of Law No. 15-19 of 2015” (Lawad, Houba, 2020).

The article “Violence against women in the Arab communities (problems and prospects for change in jurisprudence and law)” (Hamadeh Tariq, 2021).

The article “Analysis of the media discourse of Arabic-oriented international news channels about violence against women in the Middle East” (Sayed Taha Asida, 2021).

The article “Violence against women: a sociological reading in the light of statistical evidence (Al-Mujabet al-Tunisi modela)” (Al-Oud Al-Bahloul, 2021).

Methodology

The principles outlined in his model are predicated on the author's selection of words within the syntactic structure. The social context in which the text was created is also noted in addition to the text's analysis. In the three aspects of discourse, he identifies three components: text, interaction, and social context. Fairclough's three levels are intricately interconnected, and the analyst can commence with the first level (description) and progress to the second level (interpretation) by understanding and examining grammatical processes and vocabulary. Subsequently, the analyst can investigate the intertextual situation, situational contexts, and social contexts to reach the final level (explanation).

Results

The most prevalent form of violence against women in Tunisia, as per the results of this research, is domestic violence or violence perpetrated by a spouse. The Al-Jomhouria has employed news documentation that is based on statistics and figures from reputable and national centers in Tunisia to represent the issue of violence against women.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of Fairclough's critical discourse, this essay explores the ideological approaches in Al-Jomhouria Newspaper of Tunisia in the subject of misbehavior and violence against women. In addition, it endeavors to reveal the implicit ideology that governs Tunisian society with respect to misconduct against women, while also considering the influence of the media on values. The discourse analysis of the news of misbehavior and violence against women in the Tunisian newspaper is analyzed in this article, and the implicit ideologies of these newspapers are investigated, which is a unique and innovative aspect of this research in comparison to the aforementioned studies. Additionally, it is recommended that the issue of violence against women in Tunisia's virtual space be examined.

Conflict of Interest

This article is an excerpt from a doctoral thesis and does not contain any conflicts of interest.

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