Exploring Dialogism in Newspaper Articles by Male and Female Writers: An Analysis of Saudi Women's Empowerment from the Perspective of the Engagement System of the Appraisal Theory

Manar Abdulhamid Almayouf

Department of English Language, Jouf University - AlJouf, Saudi Arabia
malmayouf@ju.edu.sa
https://orcid.org/0009-0003-7167-9313

Hesham Suleiman Alyousef

English Department, College of Language Sciences, King Saud University - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
hesham@ksu.edu.sa
http://orcid.org/0000-0002-9280-9282

الملخص

تركز الدراسة الحالية على استخدامات الصيغ اللغوية المتعددة في مقالات مجلة عرب نيوز حول تمكين المرأة في المملكة العربية السعودية. كما توضح هذه الدراسة بشكل خاص كيف يعبِر الصحفيون عن مواقفهم فيما يتعلق بموضوع تمكين المرأة في المملكة العربية السعودية وكيف يتفاعل الصحفيون الذكوروالإناث على حد سواء مع تمكين المرأة السعودية باستخدام (نظام المشاركة) كجزء من (نظرية التقييم) التي قدمها مارتن ووايت عام (2005). تركز هذه النظرية على استخدام المعاني الضمنية التي توجه لغة الخطاب ليكون أكثر نقداً، أو تقييماً، أو قبولاً، أو رفضاً، أو مناقشةً لوجهات النظر الأخرى المذكورة في المقالات. أظهرت نتائج هذه الدراسة أن أكثر المفردات التشاركية المستخدمة في المقالات متعلقة بـ (الإمتنان) و(التأييد) و(التَضَاؤل) مما يدل على أن صحيفة عرب نيوز تقدر رأي المصادر الأخرى المدرجة في مقالاتها. علاوةً على ذلك فقد استخدمت الصحفيات الكثير من مفردات (الإمتنان) بينما استخدم الصحفيون الكثير من مفردات (التأييد) و(التَضَاؤل). وبشكل عام فقد استخدم الكتاب في مقالاتهم ثلاث مصادر للتفاعل وتقديم آراء أخرى تدعم تمكين المرأة في المملكة العربية السعودية. تعتبر هذه الدراسة هي الأولى من نوعها في مناقشة موضوع تمكين المرأة السعودية في الإعلام السعودي حتى الآن. كما يوصي الباحثون بإجراء دراسات أخرى حول موضوع تمكين المرأة السعودية باستخدام مجلات أخرى أو مقالات من أعمدة مختلفة من صحيفة عرب نيوز. كذلك فإن هذه الدراسة تساهم في فهم المعاني الضمنية في الخطاب الإخباري في المملكة العربية السعودية من منظور وظيفي لنظرية التقييم.

Abstract

The present study focuses on the uses of heteroglossic formulations in the Arab News Journal articles about women's empowerment in Saudi Arabia. More specifically, this study explains how journalists show their position regarding women's empowerment in Saudi Arabia and how male/female journalists engage with Saudi women's empowerment by using the Engagement system features. Appraisal theory was employed in the present study because it focuses on interpersonal meanings that provide writers and speakers with the means to be critical, and value, reject, accept, and challenge other positions mentioned in the articles. The findings revealed that the highest number of engagement instances are specifically acknowledgment, endorsement, and contractions resources which shows that the journal admits and appreciates the other sources included in the articles. Moreover, female writers utilized more acknowledgment resources while male journalists used more endorsement and contraction resources. Thus, the authors mostly employed three engagement features to attribute other stances in their articles supporting women's empowerment in Saudi Arabia. Consequently, they are recognizing and appreciating Saudi women's empowerment. To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first of its kind to investigate Saudi women's empowerment in the Saud media. Studies on the same topic using other journals or different columns are recommended. The study contributes some understanding of interpersonal meaning in the news discourse in Saudi Arabia from the functional perspective of appraisal theory.

Keywords: dialogism in media; heteroglossic engagement; heteroglossic formulations; Saudi women's empowerment

_____

Introduction

Newspaper articles are a kind of discourse where writers can provide persuasive, provoking, logical, and objective ideas. These communicative contexts can address the audience and have their objectives (Bednarek & Caple, 2012). In other words, authors can present their ideas in an engaging, convincing, and negotiating manner to convey their aims through the texts. Although there are different sources and platforms of information nowadays, people still seek out newspaper articles whether they are online or printed. Moreover, newspaper journals still have an important effect on people as they can greatly influence readers. Therefore, readers may change their beliefs, ideas, opinions, or behaviors according to what they read in them (Bednarek & Caple, 2012; Montgomery, 2011; Quinn & Lamble, 2008).

Newspaper discourse attracts the interest of many linguists, as it is widely studied. White (2012) was the first to employ in his doctoral dissertation the appraisal framework developed by Martin and White (2005) to study news discourse. In his study, White suggested that the interpersonal types of news discourse are composed of social assessments of information and attitudes towards these meanings of authors and readers. White (2012) examined online and hard versions of English language news journals and found that the most frequent engagement formulations are attribution whereby authors present their viewpoints from external sources, employing "quoted source, whose observations, interpretations, beliefs and opinions are apparently being passed on to the media audience" (p. 1). Attributions are indirect appraisal mechanisms for journalists to reinforce their points.

Later, many research studies utilized Martin and White's (2005) appraisal framework in newspaper articles (e.g. Huan, 2016; Huang, 2020; Jin, 2019; Jullian, 2011; Puspita & Pranoto, 2021; White, 2012). However, most of them focused on the systems of Attitude and Graduation (Jin, 2019; Liu & Stevenson, 2013; Puspita & Pranoto, 2021; Zhang, 2015). Some studies investigated feminism in media discourse (Abdel-motaleb, 2017a, 2017b; Fathallah & Al Khazraji, 2022), employing appraisal framework. Other studies explored the linguistic violence against women in the press (José & Sergio, 2014; Marsakawati, 2016) using the Attitude system. While Ponton (2010) applied the appraisal system in the examination of Margaret Thatcher's political speech, Mayo and Taboada (2017) employed Attitude and Graduation systems in their investigation of political articles addressing women.

The number of studies on the Engagement system in newspaper articles is limited (Fitriani, 2021; Huan, 2016; Huang, 2020; Jullian, 2011). Fitriani (2021), for example, employed the Engagement system to investigate online newspaper articles written by eight female journalists on crime and law, politics, environmental issues, health and lifestyles, and education. This study demonstrates that the most frequent engagement features were disclaiming and entertaining features. The articles were from the opinion column in the journals, discussing different topics of politics, such as crime, law, health, lifestyle, education, and environmental issues. Therefore, female authors tend to show their voices as supporting or disagreeing with others or persuading readers with their personal subjective opinions, and the fewest number of features were proclaiming features.

There are relatively few studies that examined newspaper articles about women, employing the Appraisal theory which is based on Halliday's (2004) systemic functional linguistics (SFL). To the best of the researchers' knowledge, there are only two studies that

investigated the differences between male and female styles in writing newspaper articles about women (Faiqiyah et al., 2022; Sutherland & Adendorff, 2014). Faiqiyah et al. (2022) investigated the appraisal features in newspaper articles about women written by two Indonesian authors, a male writer and a female writer. The investigation of the engagement resources revealed that the female author did not use contractive formulations in the text while the male writer used many. Faiqiyah et al. (2022) argue that the male author's usage of contractive resources reflects the tendency to oppose, show disagreement, or forbid something. The study also demonstrates that the female author used acknowledge formulations more than the male author which shows that women try to make connections between themselves and the outside voices that they have cited. These findings, however, are not reliable because the data included only two newspaper articles.

Similarly, Sutherland and Adendorff (2014) explored only three texts about Women's Day in South Africa by two female writers and a male journalist. The results showed that female authors used acknowledgment and endorsement patterns while the male author used more countering features. According to Sutherland and Adendorff, the authors' usage of engagement resources perfectly served the aim of their articles; that is, to raise the audience's attention to issues facing women in South Africa. Investigations of the Engagement system of the appraisal framework in newspaper articles about women's empowerment did not seem to attract the attention of researchers. Such investigation is pertinent since it reveals the newspaper writer's interpersonal standing towards women's empowerment. The system of Engagement (monogloss-heterogloss) within the appraisal framework offers a more helpful tool for our purposes. While monoglossic resources do not explicitly reference other viewpoints or voices, heteroglossic formulations invoke for dialogistic alternatives. Heteroglossically formulated propositions are concerned with whether the author's stance is dialogistically contractive or expansive. On the contrary, the propositions in monoglossic formulations are either 'taken-for-granted' or treated as 'at issue,' i.e. writers show no engagement with other viewpoints, and that's why the present study placed greater focus on the uses of heteroglossia.

Women in Saudi Arabia have gained great international attention in the world news due to the successful developments in the last six years in Saudi Arabia by King Salman bin Abdulaziz AL Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman. Being under the world's media spotlight puts more pressure on Saudi media to objectively show this effective change to the world. In Saudi Arabia, there are many newspapers that are for English-speaking audiences. How can these journals reflect their point of view about women's empowerment and change in the Saudi society?

In particular, the use of engagement resources in Saudi newspaper articles has not been investigated. The present study focused on the Engagement system in its investigation of women's empowerment in Saudi newspaper articles because it attends to the various authorial voices and opinions in discourse and how the author's voice is positioned in relation to the propositions conveyed by the text. Therefore, as far as we are aware, there are no studies on the use of the Engagement system in Saudi newspaper articles related to women's empowerment. Thus, this study contributes the literature specific to this theme and context. The present study investigated the use of dialogic linguistic features in articles written by male/female authors about Saudi women's empowerment published in the Arab News Journal, a Saudi English-language journal. It aimed to explore the dialogic (heteroglossic) linguistic

features that are used to engage the putative readers of Arab News Journal about Saudi women-themed articles.

More specifically, the present study aimed to explore the use of engagement resources when demonstrating to readers this impressive development in Saudi Arabia. In this study, the researchers examined 10 recent articles related to Saudi women's empowerment published in a Saudi newspaper, Arab News, from 2020 to 2022. Arab News Journal was selected because it is the first English-language daily newspaper in Saudi Arabia and has over 10 million monthly readers (Arab News, 2023). Martin and White's (2005) appraisal theory was employed as a research framework since it proved its effectiveness in analyzing interpersonal meaning in different types of discourse such as literary works, media, legal, scientific, and academic discourse (Fryer, 2013; Huang, 2020; Hyland, 2005; Poole et al., 2019; Shen & Tao, 2021). More specifically, the researchers utilized the system of Engagement to investigate the engagement resources employed by male/female authors about Saudi women's empowerment in Arab News articles. Therefore, this study attempted to answer the following two questions:

1. What linguistic features of the Engagement system (monogloss and heterogloss) are disseminated in Saudi newspaper articles written by male/female writers about woman empowerment?

2. How do the male/female writers in the Saudi newspaper articles about woman empowerment differ in their use of engagement resources?

Theoretical Framework

In this study, the appraisal framework was employed to analyze the corpus. The appraisal framework was developed by Martin and White (2005) within Halliday's (2004) SFL to map out the resources that can be used to provide value to social experiences. According to Halliday (2004), language is a network of systems that provide meanings, and they are ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings. The ideational meaning is related to human ideas and experience while the interpersonal meaning refers to feelings and attitudes and, finally, the textual refers to the organization of ideas and feelings in a connected, meaningful text. That is, language is used to convey people's feelings, attitudes, and judgments about others or things they talk about. Since SFL focuses on language use and language function, it is a useful tool for analyzing texts and newspaper discourse through the application of the appraisal framework (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021).

The appraisal framework is a system of interpersonal meanings. It is concerned with investigating the degree of the writer's engagement with the writer's prior beliefs and values. Moreover, it explores how writers position themselves with other values and beliefs, for example, standing with or without, being neutral or undecided. In addition, what they are trying to convey to readers, and how? In other words, the appraisal framework "is directed towards providing a systematic account of how such positioning is achieved linguistically" (Martin & White, 2005, p. 93). Martin and Rose (2008, p. 117) added that it is concerned with "the kinds of attitudes that are negotiated in a text, the strength of the feelings involved and the ways in which values are sourced and readers aligned." Consequently, the appraisal theory is the most suitable theory to investigate the news discourse, more specifically exploring the authorial stance and how journalists engage their interpersonal meanings and beliefs with their readers.

This framework is employed in the present study to investigate the interpersonal meanings conveyed by the authors' use of words in the *Arab News Journal*.

The appraisal framework is constituted of three systems: (a) Engagement, (b) Attribution and (c) Graduation (Martin & White, 2005). For the purpose of this study, we are concerned with the Engagement system since it reveals the "meanings by which speaker/writer engages dialogistically with prior speakers on the same subject and anticipates potential responses" (White, 2012, p. 59). The Engagement system includes linguistic resources that writers use to show their position toward the values demonstrated in a text, taking into account their readers. As stated earlier, the Engagement system is divided into two main categories: monoglossic and heteroglossic formulations. Monoglossic means that the writer does not explicitly reference other voices or viewpoints while heteroglossic includes all resources that allow for other voices or viewpoints in the discourse. A monoglossically asserted proposition includes bare assertions, and it is "presented as very much in the spotlight – as very much a focal point for discussion and argumentation" (Martin & White, 2005, p. 101).

Within heteroglossic features, there are two broad categories: "contract" and "expand" as indicated in Figure 1.

Figure 1
Engagement System: Contract and Expand Features (Martin & White, 2005, p. 134)
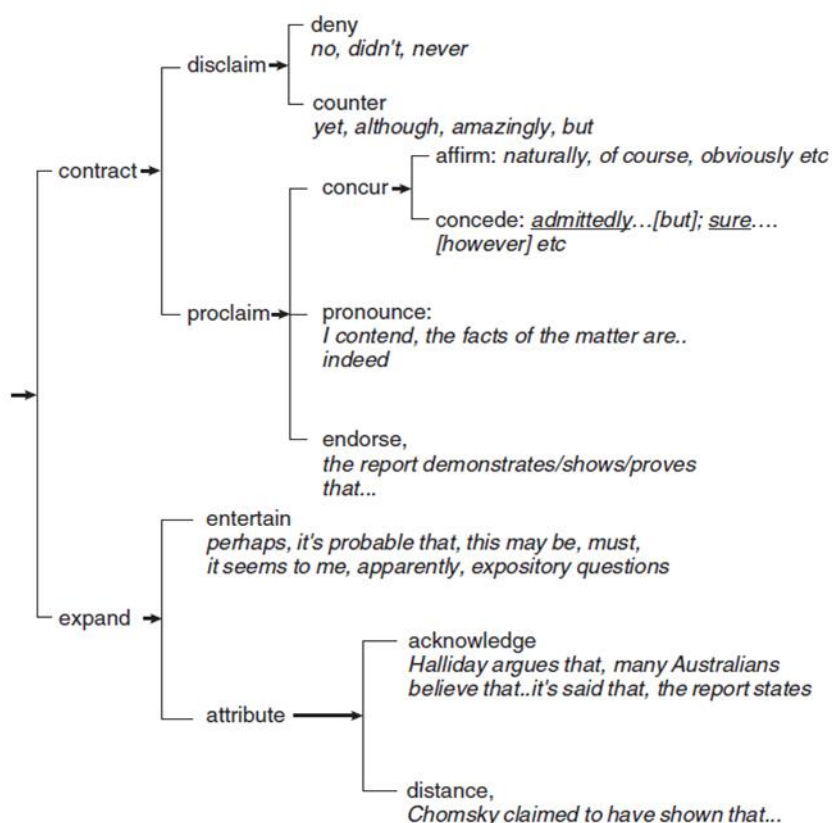
Contraction includes all instances that challenge or shut down any other dialogic stances while expansion includes the instances that allow for alternative dialogic stances. Under the contraction category, there are two subcategories (or contractive meanings) which are (1) "disclaim" and (2) "proclaim." Within disclaim there are two other subtypes: "deny" through the use of negation (e.g., 'no,' 'not,' 'never') and "counter" through concession/counter-

expectation resources (e.g., 'but,' while', 'whereas,' 'even though'). The authorial voice in a disclaim statement directly rejects or overrules other voices. Under proclaim category, there are four subtypes which are (1) "concur," (2) "pronounce," (3) "endorse," and (4) "justify" by which the authorial voice limits or challenges other voices. Huan (2016) argues that these four features are "relevant to the study of journalists engaging authorial and non-authorial voices" (p. 5). Concur features demonstrate that the author is agreeing with the other stance such as the use of 'admittedly' and 'certainly.' Pronouncement refers to overtly presenting the author's voice such as 'declare' and 'contend.' It differs from endorsement which means that the authorial voice accepts and validates other external voices such as the use of 'demonstrates' and 'shows.' However, justify is not mentioned in the original diagram in Figure 1, but it is mentioned in White (2003). It is also included in the UAM Corpus Tool built-in scheme, and it will be investigated as well in this study. By the use of justify, the author gives a justification of the stances mentioned in his/her text such as the use of 'thus' and 'since.'

The second broad category in the Engagement system is expansion which is divided into two subtypes "entertain" and "attribute." Regarding the former, it refers to the likelihood of the author's stance, and it includes modality and evidentials (e.g., 'may,' 'must,' 'perhaps,' 'seem,' 'suggest,' 'apparently'). Attribution resources represent the proposition as "grounded in the subjectivity of an external voice, the textual voice represents the proposition as but one of a range of possible positions" (Martin & White, 2005, p. 98). Attribution includes formulations that involve process verbs (e.g., said, argues) and nominalizations (e.g., belief, assertions), and various adverbial adjuncts (e.g., according to, X's view). The attribution category is divided into "acknowledge" and "distance." By the use of acknowledgment features, writers choose to show their position, or they do not according to the proposition in their writing such as the use of 'say,' 'believe,' and 'report.' By the use of distance, the author explicitly distances his voice from the material provided such as the use of 'claim' and 'allege.' Distancing formulations are seen as dialogically expansive because they allow for alternative dialogic stances.

Methodology

Research Design

A mixed-method research design was adopted to answer the two research questions. This design combines elements of qualitative and quantitative methodologies in one or more stages of the research project (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; Dörnyei & Griffee, 2010). Therefore, using qualitative methods can overcome the abstract statistical characteristics of quantitative research by adding more depth and meaning to the results. Thus, a more in-depth exploration of the engagement resources used in news discourse is presented, with a focus on the subsystem of heterogloss. Also, using mixed methods enhances the validity of the research and provides a greater possibility of legitimizing results than either quantitative or qualitative data alone. Researchers can assess the findings from both data types by triangulation which means the use of multiplex sources of data or multiple research techniques (Mackey & Gass, 2021).

Mixed methods designs can fall under the epistemic approach, which is concerned with the way knowledge is conveyed. According to Van Dijk (2013, p. 497), understanding sources of knowledge and how they are presented in news discourse is relevant to epistemic discourse

analysis, which can be defined as the "systematic and explicit study of the ways knowledge is interactively managed (activated, expressed, presupposed, implied, conveyed, construed, etc.) in the structures and strategies of text and talk." The epistemic analysis of news discourse is closely linked to the analysis of how journalists position themselves in relation to news knowledge (Huan, 2016).

Data

Ten newspaper articles were extracted from Arab News newspaper according to the keywords "Saudi woman - Saudi woman empowerment." Arab News was founded in 1975 and has become the Middle East's leading English daily (Arab News, 2023). It is one of more than 30 outlets by the Saudi Research and Publishing Company (SRPC), a subsidiary of the Saudi Research and Media Group (SRMG). Arab News has an electronic website and since 2016, it has launched three full-fledged country editions in Pakistan, Japan, and France "to become popular not only among Saudi Arabia's society and the Arab World but also reaching policymakers and business leaders in the United States and the United Kingdom making it one of the primary sources in the Arab World to be quoted by US and UK media outlets and policymakers" (Arab News, 2023). Moreover, in 2018 Arab News has adopted a new motto presented on the official website "the voice of a changing region" to demonstrate its goal and mission. Many Articles were published about Saudi women and Saudi woman's empowerment. However, our corpus of articles is concerned with the most recent period from November 2020 to January 2023. Thus, this justifies why the second corpus is bigger than the first., as whatever is written in this period about women's empowerment was selected. The articles were written by five female journalists and five male journalists as shown in Table 1. The articles are related to famous and important people in Saudi society, praising and celebrating the change in women's position in Saudi Arabia.

Table 1

The Dataset of the Study According to the Publication Date and Gender

	Articles written by male authors	Publication Date	Author	No. of words
1	Empower alliance hails 'remarkable year for women's empowerment	18 November 2020	Rashid Hassan	302
2	Saudi UN mission hails Kingdom's successes in empowering women	10 March 2021	Ephrem Kossaify	740
3	Women set to take over admin duties in all Saudi personal status courts	3 January 2022	Mohammed Alkinani	611
4	Saudi Arabia focused on 'real empowerment of women,' says Kingdom's UN envoy	26 June 2022	Hebshi Alshammari	813
5	Saudi women thriving in the diplomatic service	16 January 2023	Hassan Almustafa	907
			Total number of words	**3,373**

	Articles written by female authors	Publication Date	Author	No. of words
1	Qiyadat Global-Georgetown program 'empowers women to lead around the world	13 Feb 2021	Lama Alhamawi	1159
2	An exemplar of Saudi Arabia's progress in women's economic inclusion and empowerment	4 March 2021	Caline Malek	1,269
3	How higher education bolstered women's empowerment in Saudi Arabia	7 March 2022	Nada Hameed	1,098
4	International Women's Day: The march of female empowerment in Saudi Arabia	8 March 2022	Rebecca Anne Proctor	1,207
5	A new dawn for Saudi diwaniya: AmCham holds its first Women in Business committee meeting	25 February 2022	Jasmine Bager	622
			Total number of words	**5,355**
			Subtotal number of words	**8,728**

Data Analysis Tools

For analyzing the articles, the UAM Corpus Tool 3.3 version was used. It is a semi-automatic annotation and free- open-source tool (O'Donnell, 2011). There are many versions of this tool, but for this study, the older offline version 3.3 was used since version 6 does not provide all the features such as saving and exporting data, and it needs more improvements. A manual annotation of each engagement feature was conducted since the provided engagement layer is not yet automatic. Thus, the software suggested tags were selected from a drop-down menu after being reviewed by considering the context surrounding each engagement feature to prevent any incorrect annotations. UAM tool provides various useful text analysis tools, including a statistics section, which allows the researcher to automatically calculate the frequency of annotated features. This function can be very useful for improving internal consistency and speeding up the annotation process (Fuoli, 2018).

Data Analysis Procedures

The annotation procedure included a number of steps. First, the articles were cleaned to exclude any remarks and banners made by the journal other than the authors. As the second research question aimed to reveal the differences in the use of engagement formulations by male/female newspaper writers, the two datasets were divided into two text files: articles written by female journalists and articles by male journalists. The files were then uploaded to the UAM Corpus Tool software. The analysis was conducted through a built-in manual appraisal analysis of the engagement scheme without any modifications to the scheme since we used the 3.3 version. As stated earlier, the engagement items were identified and assigned features in each dataset.

Descriptive and contrastive statistics were extracted from the UAM tool. This included frequencies and percentages of the occurrence of each item of the engagement formulations in the whole dataset. In each dataset, the percentage of the occurrence of each engagement type was calculated based on the total instances of the engagement resources to validate claims such as 'more' and 'fewer.' Afterward, a contrastive descriptive analysis was applied to each dataset separately (See 4.2). Since the datasets are not comparable in terms of word count, the frequency of each engagement item was normalized by calculating the frequency per 1,000 words (Bestgen, 2020). To calculate the frequency per 1,000 words, data was transferred to UAM Tool version 6 as this feature is not found in version 3.3. Finally, conclusions were derived from the overall analysis of the dataset.

A reannotation procedure was applied by a fellow linguist to check consistency in the labeling of engagement resources to ensure more reliable results. Differences in coding were minimized by discussion and negotiation with the fellow linguist until a full agreement is reached. The consistency of the coding was in 94% of all the engagement items. Miles and Huberman (1994) suggested an agreement level of at least 80% as a reasonable minimum. The statistical results which are generated from the UAM Corpus Tool are presented and discussed next.

Results and Discussion

The following section presents answers for the first research question: what linguistic features of the Engagement system (monogloss and heterogloss) are disseminated in Saudi

newspaper articles written by male/female writers about woman empowerment? Thus, the findings related to the use of engagement features in articles published by the Arab News Journal are presented and discussed. Section 4.2 attempts to provide answers for research question two: How do the male/female writers in the Saudi newspaper articles about woman empowerment differ in their use of engagement resources? The contrastive use of engagement features between male and female authors are presented, compared and discussed.

Engagement Features in All the Articles

The Engagement system has different resources as shown above in Figure 1. A summary table of the use of Engagement formulations in the Saudi newspaper articles written by male/female writers about woman empowerment is presented in Table 2.

The findings show that heteroglossic formulations are more frequent than monoglossic with a frequency of 72.50% (Table 2). It can be stated that all the writers preferred to use the hetroglossic propositions more than monoglossic ones. This finding indicates that journalists favored being more dialogic and open to alternative voices rather than excluding them. Of course, this is the nature of news articles to use heteroglossic features allowing engagements through dialogic formulations (White, 2012). Consequently, journals can raise the value of their work by using these features (Huan, 2016; Puspita & Pranoto, 2021).

Table 2

The Frequency of Monoglossic vs. Heteroglossic Resources of the Whole Data

Data	Monoglossic		Hetroglossic	
Articles	No.	%	No.	%
	77	27.50	203	72.50
Subtotal	280			

The monoglossically formulated propositions are presented by the newspaper writers as 'taken-for-granted' rather than 'at issue.'

1. The 30-hour program intends to strengthen the knowledge of female leaders in the workplace, and guide them through practical and strategic obstacles [monoglossic]. (Alhamawi, 2021).

The proposition that there is a "30-hour program" and the deeds it intends to accomplish is uncontentious for the audience to which the text is being directed. Martin and White (2005) argues that readers who are at odds with monoglossic propositions are considered "outside the discursive community which the text constructs for itself" (p. 157).

In addition, the journalists used more dialogically expansive formulations (62.07%) than contractive (37.93%). The total number includes the use of both contractive and expansive formulations. This indicates that the journal authors' stance is more on opening up the space for alternative voices rather than challenging or shutting them down, which serves the purpose of newspaper articles.

Table 3

The Occurrence of Hetroglossic Formulations in the Saudi Newspaper Articles

Hetroglossic formulation	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Contract	77	37.93				
Disclaim			35	17.24		
Deny					9	4.43
Counter					26	12.81
Proclaim			42	20.69		
Concur					0	0.00
Pronounce					4	1.97
Endorse					25	12.32
Justify					13	6.40
Expand	126	62.07				
Entertain			13	6.41	13	6.41
Attribute			113	55.66		
Acknowledge					113	55.66
Distance					0	0.00
Subtotal and percentage	203	100%	203	100%	203	100%

The frequency of dialogic contractive resources (Table 3) indicates that the journalists employed more resources of proclaiming (e.g., highlight, note, point out, announce) than disclaiming (e.g., not, but, despite, still), respectively, 20.69 % and 17.24%. It seems that the writers somehow used their authorial interventions to limit the scope of alternative propositions rather than to directly reject or overrule certain alternative positions.

The most frequent proclaim category was endorsement (e.g., prove, show, highlight, note, point out), followed by justify (e.g., accordingly, as, therefore, since). It seems that the authors included a list of external voices in citation format which they endorsed and validated. Such formulations make the authors' argument strongly accepted and valid. It shows writers as completely aligned with those voices. Pronouncement is the third (e.g., announce, affirm, confirm, address, talk). Finally, there is no use of concurring resources in the articles. Within the disclaim category, the journalists employed more resources of countering which accounted for 12.81% (e.g., while, but, although, yet, just) while denying features accounted for 4.43% (e.g., no, not). The use of contractive disclaim resources, specifically countering propositions shows that the journalists are negotiating some propositions presented by them or by external voices. Moreover, it shows support for these ideas since counters align readers with these voices rather than disaligning them because they "construe the writer as sharing this axiological paradigm with the reader" (Martin & White, 2005, p. 121). This result is consistent with Huang's (2020) study. In example 2, the author negotiates the idea of the presence of the male guardian, and she aligns with the readers' opinion that it was not imposed by law.

2. "Jabarti says that previously, consent from a male guardian for a woman to work was not required under law, but [contract: disclaim: counter] that it was nevertheless the norm." (Proctor, 2022)

3. "Although [contract: disclaim: counter] she is Saudi by birth, Althagafi spent most of her childhood in the US state of Michigan. But, [contract: disclaim: counter] after graduating from the University of the Pacific in California, she decided to move back

to Saudi Arabia, where she spent a year working in the management team of a private hospital in Jeddah." (Malek, 2021)

In example 3, the author counters the proposition that although Mona Althagafi, director of Serco Saudi Services, spent most of her childhood in the US, she is Saudi by birth and has moved back to Saudi Arabia after graduating from the University of the Pacific in California

Proclaiming propositions were mostly expressed by using the resources of endorsement. This result is also consistent with Jullian's (2011) and Huan's (2016) studies. It indicates that the writers preferred to endorse the sourced propositions as valid and undeniable which means that they supported their stance as seen in the following examples:

4. "In particular, he highlighted [contract: proclaim: endorse] the W20 summit that took place during the Saudi presidency of the G20 last year, and the declaration of Riyadh as the capital of Arab Women for 2020, during the 39th session of Arab Women Committee under the auspices of the Arab League." (Kossaify, 2021)

5. "Al-Ateeq also pointed to [contract: proclaim: endorse] the "support for self-employment" program, which broadens opportunities for women to increase their income, especially through the "part-time work" and "remote work" programs." (Alshammari, 2022)

In example 4, the journalist uses a factive reporting verb to endorse the facts mentioned by other voices. Unlike acknowledgment resources, endorsement resources are used by writers to accept and validate positions in a direct way. Similarly, the writer in example 5 endorses the idea presented by AL-Ateeq of the increase in women's employment through part-time and remote work freelance job opportunities provided by the Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Misk Foundation.

The expansive resources are divided into two sub-types: entertain and attribute (Table 3). Clauses indicating external subjectivity or attribute were the more common (55.66%) than those indicating internal subjectivity or entertain (i.e., author's opinions) features (6.41%). Interestingly, there are no distancing resources in the articles which shows that the authors attributed the external voices mentioned in their articles by acknowledging them only and not distancing themselves from them. Expansive acknowledgement features were the most frequent among all the heteroglossic formulations used in the articles. This finding aligns with previous studies (Huan, 2016; Jullian, 2011; White, 2012). According to White (2012), the use of attribution features shows that there are viewpoints of external sources, and these voices are attributed with respect to the text. The findings showed that there is a number of quoted materials. White (2012) states that quoted materials "ground the proposition in an individual, contingent subjectivity" (p. 61). However, the authorial voice is demonstrated through the use of linguistic features which show whether they are standing with, against, undecided, or neutral with the value positions of other speakers. The authors demonstrated their neutral position by the use of 'said' or aligning or favoring this position by the use of 'believe' with the other propositions as illustrated in the following examples from the articles.

6. Nashar said [expand: attribute: acknowledge] that the Saudi presidency organized the first meeting of Empower in April this year, welcoming members and expressing strong support for women's empowerment

7. "One of the main factors contributing to more Saudi women in the job market is that no one was counting before. We weren't even on the radar," she said [expand: attribute: acknowledge]. (Hassan, 2020)

8. Althagafi believes [expand: attribute: acknowledge] her work is already making a significant impact on how the Saudi population digitally engages with state and private institutions. (Malek, 2021)

In example 6, the author seems to be neutral as the quoted source is a fact while it is an opinion of the external voice in example 7. In example 8, the author is acknowledging the idea of Althagafi's impact of her work on Saudi citizens. It seems that the reporters are trying to be neutral in some instances when it is a fact, while they are acknowledging and recognizing these quoted sources in other examples. The reason might be that the articles are about important people in Saudi society, and these figures are appreciating women's empowerment. By doing so, it seems that the writers are agreeing with the voices they used in their articles. Interestingly, no distancing features are used which seems that the authors' stances are either undecided or supportive of other potential voices that are praising Saudi women's empowerment.

Engagement Features in Male/Female Authors' Articles

The findings in Table 4 reveal that male journalists employed more heteroglossic features (77.51%) than their female counterparts (68.21%). On the contrary, female journalists used more monoglossic propositions (31.79%) than male journalists (22.49%).

Table 4
The Frequency of Monoglossic vs. Heteroglossic Resources between Male/Female Writers

Data	Men's Articles				Women's Articles			
	Monoglossic		Hetroglossic		Monoglossic		Hetroglossic	
Articles	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	29	22.49	100	77.51	48	31.79	103	68.21
Per 1,000 words	8.6		29.6		9		19	
Total number	129 (46.07%)				151 (53.93%)			

Overall, female journalists used more engagement resources (53.93%) than male journalists (46.07%). A summary table contrasting male/female writers' use of engagement resources in the Saudi newspaper articles about woman empowerment is presented in Table 5.

Female journalists used more expansive resources (Table 5) than male journalists (72.81% vs. 51%).

9. A simulated learning technique called "Gamification" allows enrolled students to experience real-life scenarios they may [expand: entertain] face in different work environments. (Alhamawi, 2021)

In example 9, the locution construes low commitment to the proposition via an assessment of low probability, opening up the space for the possibility of dialogistical alternatives. On the

contrary, female authors employed fewer contractive resources (27.19%) than their male counterparts (49%). This indicates that female authors favor alternative positions and voices rather than challenge, counter, or restrict the scope of dialogic contraction. However, the use of the dialogistically expansive feature of Acknowledgement per 1,000 words was almost equal in male/female writers (Table 5).

Table 1

The Occurrence of Engagement Formulations in Saudi Newspaper Articles Written by Male/Female Writers

	Male writers						Per 1,000 words	Female writers						Per 1,000 words
Hetroglossic formulation	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Contract	49	49					14.50	28	27.19					5.20
Disclaim			20	20			5.9			15	14.57			2.8
Deny					6	6	1.8					3	2.91	0.6
Counter					14	14	4.1					12	11.66	2.2
Proclaim			29	29			8.6			13	12.62			2.4
Concur					0	0	0					0	0	0
Pronounce					3	3	0.9					1	0.97	0.2
Endorse					20	20	5.9					5	4.85	0.9
Justify					6	6	1.8					7	6.80	1.3
Expand	51	51					15.1	75	72.81					13.8
Entertain			6	6	6	6	1.8			7	6.80	7	6.80	1.3
Attribute			45	45			13.3			68	66.01			12.5
Acknowledge					45	45	13.3					68	66.01	12.5
Distance			0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	15.1	103	100	103	100	103	100	13.8

The entertainment features were almost equally used by all authors. The male writers used more proclaiming and disclaiming resources (respectively, 29% and 20%) than female writers (respectively, 12.62% and 14.57%). However, endorsement resources (Table 5) were more frequent in men's articles (20%) than in women's (4.85%). These results are in contrast with the previous small-scale studies of Faiqiyah et al. (2022) and Sutherland and Adendorff (2014) which indicated that female reporters prefer to use acknowledgment features and male reporters tend to use more countering features to negotiate. However, the difference in the current study is that in addition to countering, the use of endorsement was mostly by male authors. This shows that both male/female journalists tend to validate the sources used in their texts about women's empowerment, while male journalists tend to argue and endorse more about women's empowerment. In general, both of them are accepting and supporting the quoted sources they are including in their articles.

Conclusion

The present study employed the appraisal framework by Martin and White (2005) mainly the subtype of the Engagement system to explore the use of heteroglossic resources in Arab News Journal articles about women's empowerment in Saudi Arabia. The study provides insights into how Arab News Journal presents Saudi women in their articles. The findings revealed that the acknowledgment resource was the predominant category in the dataset. Journal writers follow this style to extend their voice by attributing the opinions of external sources. The authors demonstrated their acceptance of the changes that empower women by

agreeing with the prominent voices they cited in their articles. This indicates that the authors of the Arab News Journal presented their ideas in an engaging, convincing, and negotiating manner that influence their readers. The contractive resources of counter and endorsement were the second most frequently occurring engagement resources in the dataset. That means that the journal writers counter the propositions that hinder women's empowerment and endorse and validate the sourced propositions.

Regarding the style of writing of male/female writers, it is clear that both genders preferred acknowledging other voices, while male journalists employed more endorsing and countering resources. Articles by both genders relied heavily on quotations as a way to appraise and thus endorse or acknowledge the whole issue or certain aspects of it. Consequently, quotations serve as an ideological function in the text, allowing writers to imprint their own views on the events. To conclude, Arab News Journal supports the external voices that encourage and praise the achievements of Saudi women. The male/female authors in the same journal are different in the use of few linguistic formulations, but overall, they accomplished the same goal.

Limitations and Implications

This study cannot be generalized due to the small amount of data. However, the study findings provide us with insights into the most commonly employed heteroglossic resources in media discourse related to Saudi women's empowerment. As the data was extracted from the news column, future studies can investigate other columns, such as the opinion section. Other Saudi journals can also be investigated, and researchers can compare their findings with those in the present study. Comparisons between the style of journalists can be applied to Arab News Journal or to writers in other journals. Moreover, comparisons between the style of journalists can be applied in relation to nationality as Arab News authors have different backgrounds.

Bio
Manar Abdulhamid Almayouf is a lecturer at the Department of English Language at Jouf University in AlJouf, Saudi Arabia. Currently, Almayouf is a PhD student at King Saud University, KSA. She received her MA in 2015 from the University of Salford, UK. She is interested in discourse analysis, phonetics, pragmatics and semantics, accents and English language varieties. Almayouf has about ten years of experience in teaching. She can be contacted via email: malmayouf@ju.edu.sa

Hesham Suleiman Alyousef is a Professor at the English Department, College of Sciences, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Currently, he teaches and supervises postgraduate students and works as an editor and a reviewer in refereed journals. He received his Ph.D. in 2014 from the University of Adelaide, Australia. Dr. Hesham's research interests include academic literacies, systemic functional linguistics, multimodal discourse analysis, metadiscourse, assessment and evaluation tools for ESL/EFL students, and the use of Web 2.0 technology in higher education. He can be contacted via email: hesham@ksu.edu.sa

List of Newspaper Articles Used in the Study

Alhamawi, Lama. (February, 2021). Qiyadat Global-Georgetown program 'empowers women to lead around the world. *Arab News*. https://arab.news/gpwkp

Al-kinani, Mohammed. (January, 2022). Women set to take over admin duties in all Saudi personal status courts. *Arab News*. https://arab.news/jrqvw

Almustafa, Hassan. (January, 2023). Saudi women thriving in the diplomatic service. *Arab News*. https://arab.news/9ftne

Alshammari, Hebshi. (June, 2022). Saudi Arabia focused on 'real empowerment of women,' says Kingdom's UN envoy. *Arab News*. https://arab.news/bkren

Bager, Jasmine. (February, 2022). A new dawn for Saudi diwaniya: AmCham holds its first Women in Business committee meeting. *Arab News*. https://arab.news/43aqq

Hameed, Nada. (March, 2022). How higher education bolstered women's empowerment in Saudi Arabia. *Arab News*. https://arab.news/pbatn

Hassan, Rashid. (November, 2020). Empower alliance hails 'remarkable year for women's empowerment.' *Arab News*. https://arab.news/z5jqu

Kossaify, Ephrem. (March, 2021). Saudi UN mission hails Kingdom's successes in empowering women. *Arab News*. https://arab.news/6du86

Malek, Caline. (February, 2021). An exemplar of Saudi Arabia's progress in women's economic inclusion and empowerment. *Arab News*. https://arab.news/jhpdu

Proctor, Rebecca Anne. (March, 2022). International Women's Day: The march of female empowerment in Saudi Arabia. *Arab News*. https://arab.news/86e8p

References

Abdel-motaleb, S. A. (2017a). Stance-taking and the language of evaluation in the media discourse of the Arab feminist writer Lamia Swaylam: A study in Systemic Functional Linguistics. *Bulletin of The Faculty of Arts*, *43*, 1-32.

Abdel-motaleb, S. A. (2017b). Stance-taking and the language of evaluation in the media discourse of the Western feminist writer Jessica Valenti: a study in Systemic Functional Linguistics. *Bulletin of The Faculty of Arts*, *43*, 33-68.

Arab News. (2023). The Voice of a Changing Region. Established in 1975, Arab News is the Middle East's leading English daily " [LinkedIn page]." [About]. Retrieved April 20, 2023 from https://www.linkedin.com/company/arabnews/about/

Bednarek, M., & Caple, H. (2012). *News discourse* (Vol. 46). Continuum.

Bestgen, Y. (2020). Comparing lexical bundles across corpora of different sizes: The Zipfian problem. *Journal of Quantitative Linguistics*, *27*(3), 272-290. https://doi.org/10.1080/09296174.2019.1566975

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (5th ed.). Sage Publications.

Dörnyei, Z., & Griffee, D. T. (2010). *Research methods in applied linguistics*. Wiley Online Library.

Faiqiyah, L., Santosa, R., & Dewi, I. K. (2022). Appraisal system used by man and woman writer in the article. *American Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research*, *6*(1), 64-67.

Fathallah, Y. M., & Al Khazraji, N. H. (2022). A positive discourse analysis of feminist portrayal in the Iraqi October protests 2019 in some western media. *Social Science Journal*, *12*(2), 4259-4270.

Fitriani, W. W. (2021). *Attitudinal system in online newspaper articles written by female authors*. Paper presented at the Teaching, Linguistics, Culture and Education Conference. (TELCECON), Central Java, Indonesia. https://conference.umk.ac.id/index.php/telcecon/article/view/166/182

Fryer, D. L. (2013). Exploring the dialogism of academic discourse: Heteroglossic engagement in medical research articles. In G. Andersen & K. Bech (Eds.), *English corpus linguistics: Variation in time, space and genre* (pp. 183-207). Brill. https://doi.org/10.1163/9789401209403_011

Fuoli, M. (2018). A stepwise method for annotating APPRAISAL. *Functions of language*, *25*(2), 229-258. https://doi.org/10.1075/fol.15016.fuo

Halliday, M. A. K. (2004). *An Introduction to functional grammar. Revised by Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen* (3rd ed.). Hodder-Arnold.

Huan, C. (2016). Journalistic engagement patterns and power relations: Corpus evidence from Chinese and Australian hard news reporting. *Discourse and Communication*, *10*(2), 137-156. https://doi.org/10.1177/1750481315611239

Huang, X. (2020). An analysis of the APEC news in Washington Post from the perspective of engagement system based on appraisal theory. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, *10*(9), 1054-1059. https://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.1009.06

Hyland, K. (2005). Patterns of engagement: Dialogic features and L2 undergraduate writing. In L. Ravelli & R. Ellis (Eds.), *Analysing academic writing: Contextualized frameworks* (pp. 5-23). Continuum.

Jin, J. (2019). Political news discourse analysis based on an attitudinal perspective of the appraisal theory-Taking the New York Times' report China-DPRK relations as an example. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, *9*(10), 1357-1361. https://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.0910.15

José, S., & Sergio, M. (2014). The linguistic representation of gender violence in (written) media discourse. *Journal of Language Aggression and Conflict*, *2*(2), 249-273. https://doi.org/10.1075/jlac.2.2.04san

Jullian, P. M. (2011). Appraising through someone else's words: The evaluative power of quotations in news reports. *Discourse and Society*, *22*(6), 766-780. https://doi.org/10.1177/0957926511411697

Liu, L., & Stevenson, M. (2013). A cross-cultural analysis of stance in disaster news reports. *Australian Review of Applied Linguistics*, *36*(2), 197-220. https://doi.org/10.1075/aral.36.2.05liu

Mackey, A., & Gass, S. (2021). Second language research: Methodology and design. Routledge.

Marsakawati, N. P. E. (2016). Appraisal in the Jakarta Post Article entitled "Ending poverty, ending violence against women". *Journal of Linguistics Education*, *6*(1), 1-7.

Martin, J., & White, P. (2005). *The language of evaluation: Appraisal in English*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Martin, J. R., & Rose, D. (2008). *Working with discourse: Meaning beyond the clause*. Continuum.

Mayo, M. A., & Taboada, M. (2017). Evaluation in political discourse addressed to women: Appraisal analysis of Cosmopolitan's online coverage of the 2014 US midterm elections. *Discourse, Context & Media*, *18*, 40-48. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcm.2017.06.003

Miles, M. B., & Huberman, A. M. (1994). Qualitative data analysis: An expanded sourcebook. Sage.

Montgomery, M. (2011). Discourse and the news. In K. Hyland & B. Paltridge (Eds.), *Continuum companion to discourse analysis* (pp. 213-226). Continuum.

O'Donnell, M. (2011). *UAM Corpus Tool*. In (Versions 3.3x & 6) http://www.corpustool.com/index.html

Poole, R., Gnann, A., & Hahn-Powell, G. (2019). Epistemic stance and the construction of knowledge in science writing: A diachronic corpus study. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, *42*, 100784. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeap.2019.100784

Puspita, D., & Pranoto, B. E. (2021). The attitude of Japanese newspapers in narrating disaster events: Appraisal in critical discourse study. *Studies in English Language & Education*, *8*(2), 796-817. https://doi.org/10.24815/siele.v8i2.18368

Quinn, S., & Lamble, S. (2008). Online newsgathering: Research and reporting for journalism. Taylor & Francis.

Shen, Q., & Tao, Y. (2021). Stance markers in English medical research articles and newspaper opinion columns: A comparative corpus-based study. *Plos one*, *16*(3), e0247981. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0247981

Sutherland, A., & Adendorff, R. (2014). An APPRAISAL analysis of a Women's Day rant, rally and reflection. *Southern African Linguistics Applied Language Studies*, *32*(4), 393-415. https://doi.org/10.2989/16073614.2014.997070

Van Dijk, T. A. (2013). The field of epistemic discourse analysis. *Discourse studies*, *15*(5), 497-499. https://doi.org/10.1177/1461445613501448

White, P. R. (2003). Beyond modality and hedging: A dialogic view of the language of intersubjective stance. *Text & Talk*, *23*(2), 259-284. https://doi.org/10.1515/text.2003.011

White, P. R. (2012). Exploring the axiological workings of 'reporter voice'news stories— Attribution and attitudinal positioning. *Discourse, Context & Media*, *1*(2-3), 57-67. https://doi.org/10.1016/J.DCM.2012.10.004

Zhang, X. (2015). Comparative study on the appraisal resources of China Daily's disaster news. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, *5*(10), 2118-2130. https://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.0510.20