

IN THE NAME OF GOD

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**Faculty of Human Sciences
Department of English language and literature**

M.A. Thesis

**Change In Practice: A Critical Discourse Analysis of New York
Times' Approach Toward Iran, Before And After Obama**

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February 2010



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Abstract

This thesis studies the representation of Iran and the matters related to Iran in the New York Times in two period of before and after Barack Obama's adjuration on January 21, 2009. The significance of these periods is that, in the first period and before Obama, the general policy of the United States was based on preemption. According to that, the U.S. administration was after stopping Iran by intensifying the sanction against it and by posing a military threat. In the second period, the general policy of U.S. was based on negotiation with Iran to solve the existing problems. Throughout analyzing forty headlines and twenty full-text news stories, the study shows that there are some differences in the representation of Iran in these periods. In the first periods Iran is introduced as a dangerous powerful enemy, while in the second one, the presented image of Iran is partly moderate. The study uses the analytical components of CDA and the grammar of transitivity of SFG to analyze these cases. The conclusion, made by this study asserts that, the change in the policy of government as the most powerful institute of the society has brought about change in the approach of the newspaper toward Iran.

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List of Abbreviations

CDA	Critical Discourse Analysis
<i>NYT</i>	<i>The New York Times</i>
SFG	Systemic Functional Grammar
U.N.	United Nations
U.S.	United States

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1-1 Goal of the research

This research is about the role of language in the construction of power relations. The language which is investigated here is not a mere individualistic instrument belonging to a perfect native speaker who can produce a set of finite or infinite number of sentences, each finite in length and constructed out of a finite set of elements as Chomsky believes (Lyons, 1981, p. 7). Contrarily, the meaning of language used in this study is a social one that looks at it, as a function of human's social life. Nowadays one of the most important outlets of this language is apparent in the media discourse and this is the only point that the study is going to survey and discuss in order to discover how language plays its function within the structure of the media as a power institution and what is/are the bilateral impact(s) of these two systems on each other.

Because of so many reasons, studying the media and analyzing the media discourse seem to be important and interesting. To put it in a simple language and cut the story short, one can begin with this reason that they are accessible and ready to use everywhere and every time and they are also tangible and in relation with people's everyday life. The subject of this study for example even at the time being is one of the most important international political issues and if it were not for the sake of analyzing and discussing data, even now, it would be possible to gather some data from *NYT* or any other sources for the sake of a more general study. It is also possible to gain this information from everywhere all over the world. This question can be treated from two perspectives; zeroing in on the former, different media all over the world are producing texts about the same issue and by focusing on the latter, a special medium is accessible all over the world, in different versions. For example, in the case of the present study, there is no limit to access the texts and contents of *The New York Times* in Iran although there is a lot of physical distance between Iran and the real place of circulation of the newspaper. Another reason is the influence and impact of media on people's social life. Not only do Media reflex and represent the social habits,

the life and the culture of people, the speech communities and above all the social meaning and models but also through (re)producing discourse and applying the power they have gained from their social position can influence people and social groups, and make some changes within these structures. In much the same vein, they can teach people many things about other nations and other people's culture and way of life that finally can be considered as a good direction to rectify and improve people's social habits.

Anyhow, there are some problems with media, in lockstep with some limitations on the domain of their activity leading them to mal-operation or at least preventing them from playing their effective social role and make them have special directions. Access to media, economy and politics of media, production and consumption and practices of media text are among the factors that may affect their general policies. Still another important factor is the general policies of the states, mostly seen in international events, and their representation and coverage in the media. Because of these effects and influences, media tend to represent special types of stereotypes most of which are based on the common beliefs of the West (Sheyholislami, 2001). This study is going to survey the representation of an international event in one of the most influential American newspapers and the role which language plays in establishing the images of this representation.

1-2 Iran and the United States¹

The first traces of effective U.S presence in Iran dates back to the last century when Iran was occupied during World War II by the Coalition Troops who were to provide Russians with their helps against German danger of total invasion of the Soviet Union. After the war, in 1951, the government of nationalist Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh nationalized the British-owned Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. In the face of strong public support for Mossadegh, Shah fled to Rome. Although Mossadegh was not a communist,

¹ Most of the written text of this section have been retrieved from <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5314.htm> under a text entitled "Background Note :Iran" which is prepared by Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs of department of state of U.S.

the U.S. and U.K. feared that he had links to the communist Tudeh Party. Consequently, in August 1953, the U.S. and U.K. programmed a coup against the democratically elected Mossadegh administration, during which the army forces that were still loyal to Shah arrested the Prime Minister. During this major social event different groups of people such as religious, nationalists and students were involved in and all of them were unsatisfied with United States' total backing of Shah. This public anger was intensified after the U.S. government allowed Shah to stay inland for what it was announced as treating the cancer but people in Iran believed it was the preparation for another coup like what happened in 1953. On November 4, 1979, Iranian students seized the American embassy in Tehran, where they held 52 American hostages for 444 days. Although it has been claimed that Ayatollah Khomeini did not have prior knowledge of the students' plans, he gave his full support to them throughout the seizure. On April 7, 1980, the United States broke diplomatic relations with Iran – something that has even continued up to the moment – and on April 24, 1981, the Swiss Government assumed representation of U.S. interests in Tehran. The Embassy of Pakistan, in the Iranian Interests Section, in Washington, DC, represents Iranian affairs in the United States. The Islamic Republic of Iran also has a permanent mission to the United Nations in New York City.

The U.S. Government, by executive orders issued by the President as well as by congressional legislation, prohibits nearly all trade with Iran. Sanctions have been imposed on Iran because of what the United States government thinks is its sponsorship of terrorism, refusal to comply with the IAEA regulations regarding its nuclear program, and human rights violations. These sanctions put a lot of pressure on Iran especially when it was in battle with Iraq that had attacked the country on September 22, 1980. Iranian authorities believed that all during the war, America was backing Iraq and holding grudges against the Islamic republic of Iran through providing Iraqis with hardware and software help. The trade restrictions had been temporarily lifted in the past during humanitarian crises, such as the 2003 Bam earthquake, to allow for donations from American citizens and permit U.S.-based non-governmental organizations to assist with the relief and reconstruction efforts. Obstacles to improve relations between the U.S. and the Islamic Republic of Iran remain. The U.S. objects to Iran's sponsorship of terrorism, nuclear weapons ambitions, and its violations of human rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran has never recognized Israel as a state, which has the right to exist, and the United States

believes that Iran has hindered the Middle East peace process by arming militants, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. On the other hand, Iran accuses the United States of planning for overthrowing the Islamic regime, backing government's adversaries and enemies and a unilateral support for Israelis in the Middle East conflict between what Iran calls Islamic world and Israeli side.



Picture 1-1. Shah and Carter (the president of the United States of America 1976-1980)

Although the Islamic Republic of Iran has contributed to render positive reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Government accuses Iran of crackdown on human rights and detainment of civil society actors. Despite these obstacles, U.S. and Iranian representatives have discussed a number of issues of concern over the years. The U.S. and Iranian envoys cooperated during operations against the Taliban in 2001 and during the Bonn Conference in 2002, which established a broad-based government for the Afghan people under President Karzai's running the country. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her Iranian counterpart attended talks on Iraq in Sharm-El Sheikh, Egypt, on May 3, 2007. The U.S. and Iranian ambassadors to Iraq further took part in face-to-face discussions in Baghdad, with Iraqi officials in attendance, on May 28, 2007.

Representatives from the three countries engaged in a second round of talks on July 24, 2007, and the ambassadors met for a third discussion on August 6, 2007.



Picture 1-2. The U.S. embassy (the *den of spies* as Iranian authorities call it) in seize on November 1979

On January 21, 2009, President Barack Obama's adjuration was held in Washington D.C. and a new perspective for his promised plan of change, containing changes in foreign policies of the United States, found a chance to emerge. On July 19, 2008, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns joined the P5+1, a group of representatives from Russia, China, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom that met Iran's top nuclear negotiator in Geneva, Switzerland. On March 31, 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton headed the U.S. delegation to the UN conference on Afghanistan at The Hague, where Iran was one of the 70 nations represented. On April 8, 2009, Under Secretary Burns participated in the P5+1 meeting in London, where the U.S. announced plans to participate fully in the P5+1 process and join in any future meetings with representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran.



Picture 1-3. Obama the new president of U.S. with the message of *change*

1-3 Significance of Study

Because of more access to them, as the role of media in the frame of social events becomes more colorful, there are more discussions about what media function is and how this function plays its role. Naturally, CDA undertakes a great part of this job and one of the most important parts of this job for CDA is to investigate and criticize the role of media in the field of international relations and events of course. Certainly, there are many of such studies in CDA literature review and I will mention some of them during writing the different chapters of this research. However, to my knowledge there has been no other similar study in this relation representing the image of Iran in the American newspapers and study the impact of change policy on them before and after Obama.

1-4 Research questions

Working within the framework of CDA, this study wants to investigate the representation of Iran in one of the major national American dailies, *The News York Times* in two periods of before and after Barrack Obama's adjuration on January 21, 2009. Its main aim is to see

whether there is any change in these representations because of the change policy that was Obama's main presidential campaign slogan in the election of 2008. The promised change policy of president Obama includes changes in U.S. foreign policies, which Iran is of importance to it. During the presidency of George W. Bush and following the preemption policy, the United States tried to make Iran cease its nuclear activities. It tried to stop Iran through passing sanctioning resolutions in the Security Council of the U.N. and threatening Iran to military attack against its nuclear bases. The new policy of Obama includes negotiation with Tehran about different issues to solve the existing problems remained from thirty years ago (NYT, March 20, 2009). As Fairclough writes

Researching dissemination and recontextualization entails comparing texts in different social fields and at different social scales (e.g. in different societies or localities), and analyzing for instance how, when these discourses are recontextualized, they are articulated with discourses which already exist within these new contexts. (2005a, p.10)

Concerning this case, it is obvious that in two contexts of before and after Obama, everything except the general policy of the U.S. government is the same. Before Obama, the general policy was to stand against Iran while in the next period this policy changes to negotiate with it. Therefore, the main question here is that in which way the language of these two periods differs. If there is any change within the discourses of these two periods, in the condition that the change has a correlation with foreign policy of the country, one can conclude that the policy of the media is in lockstep with the policy of the government. Here for example, it would be possible to say that *NYT* is following the policies of U.S. government. This will result in such a conclusion that the policy-makers and power centers determine the ideology of institutes. Although such institutes such as media are counted as power institute by themselves and besides, they have bilateral impact on power centers, too. Analyzing this possible difference or differences we need to investigate the linguistic component of the texts belonging to these periods. Consequently the following questions arises

1. What kind of relationships does exist between the lexical choices and social-cultural attitude?
2. How are Halliday's three metafunctions represented in the text? Moreover, what kinds of relationships do exist between Halliday's three metafunctions and mentioned attitudes?

3. What kinds of relationships do exist between the thematic structure of the sentence and social-cultural attitude?
4. In which way have the processes of generalization and overlexicalization served the manipulation process?

1-5 limitation of the research

The finding, discussions and conclusions of this study are limited at least by two major factors. The first one is that the result of the fact that, the study is tightly dependent on the selected data from *NYT* during this period. If, for example, some other data have been selected from this newspaper, there would have been a possibility to have different findings, which certainly would lead in different discussion and conclusions. By the other side, if the data were selected from other sources except *NYT*, in the same manner one may perceive different results. The next factor, capable of affecting the finding of the research, is my ethnical background as an Iranian citizen with special political tendencies that may push me to drive my desired results out of this study. Regarding the first problem, I will try to apply a totally random selection of data to increase the reliability of it. However, even with this possibility of changing in result because of the change in the data, still it is possible to study the operation of linguistic components within a discourse free from any special political conclusion. For example, the way that transition grammar plays its role in establishing the meaning is obvious in any selected data from every source and it is something very important and basic in studying discourse. Regarding the second factor, I will try to remain objective and forget any ethnical background and to act within the framework of CDA.

1-6 chapters

This study is divided into five chapters:

Chapter 2 gives the needed theoretical information for the study and introduces the background knowledge of CDA, its principles, roots and main directions besides Halliday's systemic functional grammar and its metafunctions.

Chapter 3 introduces the methods of analysis. In this chapter, also the method of, sampling data and the way that data are analyzed, is discussed.

Chapter 4 goes for data analysis. In this chapter, sampled data will be discussed from different perspectives. Headlines and full-text stories are to be analyzed separately for each period, the method of analysis for headlines and full-text stories will be different and various. The main objective of this chapter is to elicit the linguistics components and their usage to build ideology and conveying desired meanings.

Finally, chapter 5 is devoted to discussion and conclusion. In this chapter, firstly the linguistic results of previous chapter will be discussed to draw a general sketch of operation system of these linguistics components and their role in constructing ideology and their special role in shaping the desired language of *NYT* about Iran in these two periods. Later on there will be a conclusion of what has been said about language, power and ideology and their relation together and if there is a new finding about the theoretical framework, it will be added, too.

Chapter 2

Theoretical Background

2-1 Introduction

This study is to investigate the application of the language and the relation that it bears to the question of power and institutions to reveal that if there are any differences in the language usages in different periods and if yes, what are the rationales behind that. My main devices of analysis are the systemic functional grammar that is developed by Halliday and critical discourse analysis, which has an origin in the Halliday's grammar. Because of that reason in this chapter, I am going to describe these theories and clarify the theoretical basis of them. There will be also a literature review of some similar works, which are done in this field.

2-2 Functionalist Approach

The greatest distinction of systemic functional grammar (SFG) is that SFG concentrates on the communicational aspect of language while the structuralist generative grammar deals with its internal structure. According to SFG, language is used to interact with others and to manage the information of one's ideas and experiences and it is looked as a part of the process of living (Halliday and Matthiessen, 1997). He believes that language as an important part of our daily life not only determines the way that a text is produced and conveys a special meaning but also through producing texts, it reveals the structure of the language used to produce that text either in written or spoken form (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004). According to them, the grammar of the language is something that can explain these cases.

The most important principle of a functionalist vision of language as was mentioned is to explain the effect of interaction and communication on the formation of language. Formalistic view of structuralists like Chomsky does not accept the priority of communicational form of language and mostly pays attention to the internal structure of language and priority of the idea of language as a device for thinking with an instinctual, natural and complete form that can be activated in the critical period in childhood

(Chomsky, 1986). In contrast to this idea, the factionalist approach believes that it is the environment, which shapes the language and its components. Therefore, language is not an autonomous phenomenon. Besides regarding the completion of language, it believes that it is ontogenetic with the growth of child and because of genetic characteristics of human being; it becomes more completed in matrix of society and social application of it. The other major characteristic of functionalist view is that it believes that morphosyntax of language is dependent on the pragmatics and the semantics of language according to which any change in the morphosyntactics of language is a result of the change in the semantics or pragmatics of language. Of course, not are all the functionalists in same degree of accordance with this idea. Some of them such as Halliday are more radical while some others like Van Valin believed that, to some extent, these syntactic changes are the result of semantic changes (Butler and Hengeveld, in the press). Beside all of that, there are some more characteristics, which are very important. In contrast to the generative grammar that exclusively deals with the standard written form of language, the functionalist approach sets all kinds of language production as its material for investigation because it mostly deals with the communicational aspect of language and not only the written form but also other language expositions vastly are used as means of interaction. In addition to this, in the everyday life, the produced texts are not produced in the form of unique separated ones rather they are connected to each other and even they are multi-propositional, so functionalist in addition to dealing with text itself deals with the context and discourse, too. The functionalist viewpoint is not limited just to a special language; instead, it tries to find the common fields of different languages and mostly is equipped with a typological instrument to classify language as the result of this motivation that common cognitive behaviors will give rise to universal linguistics features (Butler and Hengeveld, in the press).

Not are all the functionalist approaches to the language the same and there are some differences among and diversities within these views. According to Butler and Hengeveld (ibid), this view can be categorized in two important classes in two sides of the Atlantics, the European and the American versions. The European version contains different styles such as systemic functional linguistics, the modern work of the Prague school, word grammar, the functional grammar developed by Dik and his colleagues and the lexical constructional model. On the other side, the American version entitled some subdivisions such as American functionalist theories including role and reference grammar, the work of

the Columbia School “and a cluster of approaches which can be subsumed under the heading of usage-based functional linguistics, arising out of the work of linguists such as Givón, Hopper, Thompson and Bybee” (p. 9). It is needed to make clear that the functional approach that is applied to the data of this study is systemic functional grammar that is established by Halliday. However, SFG includes two main versions of Sydney and Cardiff that while they are the same in their emphasis on the choice and the paradigmatic relation between system networks, they are different in the sense that in the Sydney model there are networks both at what is labeled lexicogrammatical level and at a higher, discourse-semantic level. Whereas the Cardiff model has networks only at the level of semantics (Butler and Hengeveld, in the press, p. 10) and here the Sydney version, which Hasan and Matthiessen, have also followed, is that version of SFG that I am going to apply to the thesis. As it has been mentioned in both of these traditions there is a significant school and since the role of European School of Prague in establishing of the SFG is noteworthy I will elaborate on it some more.

2-2-1 The Prague School

The nowadays Prague school of linguistics consists of a large number of linguistics who have taken their thinking bases from the main figures of this school in the 1930s, Vilém Mathesius, Nikolay Trubetskoy, Roman Jakobson. In the same way, Karl Bühler has been so influential in the school although he was not a member of it. He distinguishes three general kinds of functions for language, which are cognitive, expressive, and conative (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2006). To a great extent these functions resemble the metafunctions of Halliday when they are compared to each other. However, they do not cover each other completely. The most well-known aspect of Prague school is its phonological contributions. For the first time they distinguished the phonemes as a set of distinctive features that their presence or absence can result in the formation of these phonological segments. These distinctive functions of phonemes, which are based on the principals of duality of the structures, can be counted as a cognitive function of the language. This approach toward the phonology mostly based on the selection and deselection of some special features for every phoneme and undisputedly is it has had a great influence on the phonological system used by Halliday in SFG.

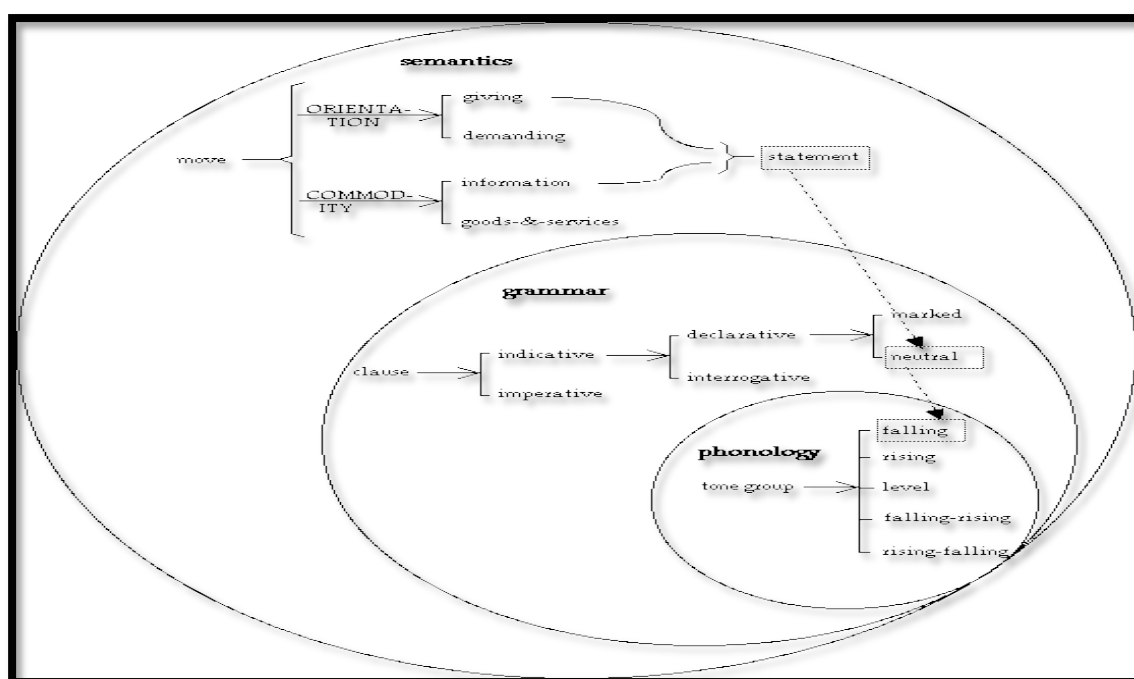
The other major phonological point investigated by Prague school is the effect of super-segmental features like intonation and stress on the attitude of language speaker which is a

totally semantic notion. In addition to this, they defined the demarcative feature of language that determines the boundaries of the words and sentences. These boundaries cause the identities of words to form and speaking from the viewpoint of cognitive aspect of language it can be related to special identity construction of entities.

One of the most frequently used notions that SFG has borrowed from Prague school is the notion of markedness. According to this, when grammatical components are distinguished by presence and absence of a feature, one of them, which has neutral condition, is unmarked and the other one is marked. The question of markedness has an important role in perception of conveyed meaning by the speaker during the interaction and it is determinative in putting the necessary emphasis on a special notion by the speaker. One of the most precious works of Prague school after World War II was the distinction of rheme and theme of the sentence that has a great reflection in the thematic system of textual metafunction of SFG.

2-2-2 Systemic Functional Grammar

According to Halliday's functional grammar, language has three outstanding functions



Picture 2-1.A general view of SFG from Halliday & Matthiessen (1997, p. 38)

(metafunctions) which serve to cover the needs one expects from using a language. These metafunctions are 'textual', 'interpersonal' and 'ideational'. The interpersonal

metafunction is the specification of language that deals with the relations within an interaction. According to Halliday and Matthiessen, it provides the needed enacting roles in general and speech roles in particular and is responsible for the dialogue strategies like initiating, changing and closing an interaction (1997). The last one contains the experiences, perceptions and discernment of people who use the language.

Table 2-1. Systemic functional grammar's metafunctions from Halliday & Matthiessen (1997, p. 46)

	characterization	related typologies	major resources						
ideational	ideation -- interpretation and representation of the world in and around us	semantic representational denotative propositional content cognitive	transitivity (process + participants + circumstances) <table><tr><td>Loc</td><td>Actor</td><td>Proc</td><td>Goal</td></tr></table> Tom. we' ll fix it won't we?	Loc	Actor	Proc	Goal		
Loc	Actor	Proc	Goal						
interpersonal	interaction between speaker and listener; assignment of speech roles and modal-attitudinal comments	conative-expressive (pragmatic)	mood & modality; key <table><tr><td>Mood</td><td></td><td>Moodtag</td></tr><tr><td>Su</td><td>Fi</td><td>TFi TSu</td></tr></table> ... we' ll ... won't we	Mood		Moodtag	Su	Fi	TFi TSu
Mood		Moodtag							
Su	Fi	TFi TSu							
textual	presentation of ideational & interpersonal information as text in context; control of textual statuses and conjunctive development of text	pragmatic discoursal functional sentence perspective	theme; information; conjunction <table><tr><td>Theme</td><td>Rheme</td></tr></table> Tomorrow we'll...	Theme	Rheme				
Theme	Rheme								

In his paper, Martin (2004) writes down “in this mapping, ideational meaning scaffolds domestic and institutional activity, interpersonal meaning enacts social relations and textual meaning organizes the distribution of information” (p.323). Textual ‘metafunction’ as the only metafunction that deals with the text itself copes with the way those language components are organized within the sentences and determine the nature of the representation of two other metafunctions.

The manifestation of each of these metafunctions is through some special grammatical systems that apply the role of that function to the structure of the text or they are some signs for the all the traces that these metafunctions leave after them in the text. Textual metafunction “whose job is to package ideational and interpersonal meaning as waves of information” (Martin, 2004, p. 323). One of the main grammatical systems of textual metafunction is the systems of THEME which provide the necessary resource “for setting up a local context for a clause by selecting a local point of departure in the flow of

information (or perhaps rather 'swell of information', since it is not a uniform flow)" (Halliday & Matthiessen, 1997, p.12).

Teo writes, "Thematization looks at the organization of information within the clause" (2000, p. 29). The definition that Halliday and Matthiessen present for the question of how to determine this point of departure mostly is based on the idea that this departure point varies in different languages. For example, as they describe for English it is based on the position on sequence. They write, "Theme of a clause is the first group or phrase that has some function in the experiential structure of the clause" (2004, p.66). While there are different criteria for other languages like Japanese where the position of *wa* is the point of departure and indicator of theme/rheme structure or Chinese in some similar way (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004, p.64). Of course, the point of departure may also have other characteristics especially in the spoken form where the peak of a tone group can determine the theme of the text.

Theme structure and its defined point of departure change and are not the same permanently. Halliday and Matthiessen (1997) indicate that there are complementary device to recognize the prominence within the text that is the newsworthiness, which relates to the question of new and given information. The most attention of the addressee goes to components of the text that contain the new information, and the less attention is devoted to given one.

Halliday and Matthiessen explain the structure of the voice as a matter of the language, which is related to the thematic system of textual metafunction. They do not recognize either passive or active voices as the unmarked cases of language voice rather he defines the unmarked and neutral cases for any of them. According to them, "the active version will have Agent/Subject as unmarked Theme and Medium as a candidate for unmarked New, whereas the passive version will have Medium/Subject as unmarked Theme and Agent (if present) as a candidate for unmarked New" (1997, p.22). Besides that, they believes that there is a relationship between the thematic system and the mood system of English language in the way that, for every case of mood in English there is a special theme/rheme structure in the unmarked occurrence (Eggins, 2004).

The relation of the thematic structure with the analysis of the discourse is something completely obvious and direct. This fact that the most important part of the text message is embedded within the theme of the text, can direct the listener of the text how to

comprehend the intended message of the speaker of the text. By the other direction, theme can lead the listener who probably is an analyst, to find out, which part of the information has been emphasized by the speaker and what kind of it has been ignored. Selecting one part of the message as the main part of the message and disqualifying the rest of it contain a code to realize and understand the reason behind it.

Mood is the main notion in interpersonal metafunction and it handles the way that the speaker (in its general meaning as writer, speaker or producer) treats the listener or the way that speaker wants listener to recognize him/her. For example when a speaker is asking a question, one expresses themselves as a person with the role of information seeker and the listener as a source of one's information. Conveying of these roles is possible through a kind of clause mood that speaker chooses for his/her clause. The major grammatical system of the interpersonal metafunction is the mood system. Eggins (2004) regarding the definition of the mood writes 'the mood structure of the clause refers to the organization of a set of functional constituents including the constituent subject' (p. 147). Just like what Eggins mentions on some previous pages, Halliday and Matthiessen deals with the notion of mood (grammar of interaction) from a semantic approach. The summary of their discussion is that in any interaction, there are two sides, the person who speaks and the other one who is to speak. In this typical interaction, two possible speech roles may occur, giving and demanding; by the other side, two different types of commodity may be exchanged, the information and the goods and services. Therefore, on the base of the table 2-2 there can be four speech functions, which are statement, question, offer and command. These are the functions that can be chosen by the speaker and the response of the person who is to speak can be in support or confront of the functions that are shown in the table 2-3. So considering the positive or negative answer of the other side on the interaction that actually completes the process, there can be eight major functions that these functions are the different moods of the language. (pp. 106-111) – the tables are from Eggins (2004, p. 146).

Transitivity is the grammar of experience (Halliday & Matthiessen, 1994) and that is "the key analytic component of ideational metafunction and provides us with the potential for categorizing the infinite verity of occurrence or going on into a finite set of process types" (Teo, 2000). It offers a system to express the experiences and internal world's ongoing happenings and thought. Despite the interpersonal metafunction and its major grammatical system which deals with the outer world and the relation between people. In transitivity

system, three factors are prominent, the processes, the participants and the circumstances. The transitivity system is various in the different languages and these verities are the result of two major types of this system. Transitivity systems are either transitive or ergative.

- Transitive type

This verity of transitivity system puts the experiential processes in the more detailed and classified processes according to the nature of those processes and the involved participants within that system.

Table 2-2 speech roles and commodities in interaction

COMMODITY EXCHANGED		
SPEECH ROLES	Information	Goods And Services
Giving	statement	offer
Demanding	question	command

Table 2-3 speech function pairs

SPEECH FUNCTION PAIRS (Initiations and Responses)		
initiation speech function	responding speech function	
	SUPPORTING	CONFRONTING
offer	acceptance (may be no-verbal)	rejection
command	compliance (may be no-verbal)	refusal
statement	Acknowledgement	contradiction
question	Answer	disclaimer

According to that, there will be six major processes types, which generally are dependent on the languages. Some of them may be counted more prominent than the other for example according to the Halliday and Matthiessen in English mental, material, verbal and relational process are more important (1997). The important job of determining the processes is carried on by the verbs but other component of the text such names and adverbs help to form a special kind of process or when there is an overlapping of two or more processes, they help to distinguish and differentiate between them. For example, the verb of *make* can simultaneously be regarded as material or relational processes but other components of the text like participants and circumstances can differentiate between them in the following examples.

1. He made us some tea.
2. Working so hard all during the day makes me hungry.

In addition to the previous processes of English, there are two other processes of behavioral and existential. Halliday has recognized these processes through analysis of children cognitive knowledge and he believes that mental, material and relational processes are the primary processes, which form the children's cognitive system and after that, other processes will form as a combination of this processes¹.

- Ergative type

This type of transitivity system has put its bases on the mode of participants and on the effect that the participants have on each other. It seems that even the notion of transitive in the classic grammar refers to a similar idea, which is restricted to the material process – where a special role is needed to complete the meaning of a material process. Here the main point is that if the Actor has an impact on the other roles or not. According to Halliday, this is not limited to the material process and can be generalized and applied to all other process types (1997). However, the impact of the participants on each other or in the exact words, the impact of the Agent on the other participants is not the only case of ergative type. It can be viewed from another view, too. It is possible to consider the causation instead of the impact. In this case, according to these writers, in the same book, there is a participant, which is in the most relation and engagement with the process. It is named *Medium* and the main question here is to investigate the activity or non-activity of agents in *Medium + Process*. If there is an agent, the phrase is called *effective* and if there is not an agent the phrase is called *Middle*. The relation between these two models is not a binary one in a way that the presence of one of them prevents the other one to be presented, but they are complementary components of the ergative system. There is the same relation between the ergative and transitive models too, in the way that they are working to gather to codify the processes of the experiences and even their simultaneous presence and the mount of the share in this cooperation is the main cause of difference between the transitivity systems of the different languages. According to Halliday and Matthiessen, “English is a typically mixed system.” (1997, p. 20)

The roles proposed by the transitivity systems are different ones from the roles that classic grammar uses. It frequently happens that the doer of a syntactic role (subject) is not the same with the doer of semantic role (agent) as an example Halliday and Matthiessen note down such a sentence

¹ A complete discussion on this part and transitive processes will be presented on chapter 3.

“My aunt was given this teapot by the duke” (2004, p. 58)

In this sentence, syntactically *my aunt* is subject of a passive sentence but looking in the meaning of the sentence, it comes out that the main doer of the sentence is the *duke* and *duke* is semantic subject or agent of the sentence.

Considering the nature of the meaning, semantic roles are so various and in different resources, different categorizations have been mentioned. However, some more important roles are common in most of these resources. Agent is the doer of a physical phenomenon, theme or patient is the entity that is involved in or affected by the action. Instrument is a role, which is devoted to a word by which an agent does an action. An experiencer has a feeling, perception or a state during the occurrence of the verb. The other more important roles are location, source and goal whose definition can be inferred from the meaning of the words (Yule, 1996 p, 117).

2-3 Critical Discourse Analysis

2-3-1 Introduction

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) as its names suggests first, is critical device. Although it is not attached to any special theory and philosophy, it calls itself merely as a method of analyzing the text (McKenna, 2004). It mainly deals with the questions of inequality and power, power institutes and the relation of language and power so it is natural to conclude that it has a political attitude (Stubbe et al, 2003). Fairclough defines it as

relationships of causality and determination between (a) discursive practices, events and texts, and (b) wider social and cultural structures, relations and processes; to investigate how such practices, events and texts arise out of and are ideologically shaped by relations of power and struggles over power; and to explore how the opacity of these relationships between discourse and society is itself a factor securing power and hegemony. (1993, p. 135)

Beaugrande (2006) describes it as an interdisciplinary knowledge and heterogeneous mass that cannot be put in one category. It is called interdisciplinary because it is located somewhere between sociology and linguistics and some linguists believe that a correct understanding of the relations between society and discourse is impossible unless linguistics and sociology approaches are totally combined (Wodak, 2006). Van Dijk (2001, p. 352) writes “Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a type of discourse analytical research that

primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context.”

Using the word of discourse in the title of this method means that there are many ways for discussing the social inequalities but the way that CDA proposes is based on the role of discourse in producing power, abusing it, and finally creating the inequality. Power which is produced by the elites, institutes or groups results in dominance and discourses reproduce this dominance or challenge it; in this condition an analyst examines the structures, strategies and other properties of the text or discourse to see how they work and (re)produce this dominance (van Dijk, 1993b).

Fairclough & Wodak (1997, pp. 271-280) summarize the main tenets of CDA as follows:

1. CDA addresses social problems
2. Power relations are discursive
3. Discourse constitutes society and culture
4. Discourse does ideological work
5. Discourse is historical
6. The link between text and society is mediated
7. Discourse analysis is interpretative and explanatory
8. Discourse is a form of social action.

And McKenna (2004, pp. 10-14) generally mentions eight characteristics for CDA as they follow

- *Teleology*

According to this feature, CDA has a teleological view to the questions of power, dominance, justice, fairness, etc. Paul Chilton believes that “CDA claims, sometimes implicitly, sometimes explicitly, that its practice provides demystifying and emancipator effects” (2005, p.21). Although Chilton asserts the quotation as a criticism about CDA, but it reflect the truth about the teleological aspect of CDA that tends to correct the affairs to turn onto the fair way. In this way, it is different from the other discourse analysis methods like conversational analysis, which mostly pays attention to the communication and dialogue in real situations. Through unifying theory and practice, it tries to bring about real social changes in the frame of that teleological attitude to the positive notion of society.

- *Theory of discourse*

Marxian theories have placed a lot of concentration on the notion of discourse. The Marxian and neo-Marxian critical discourse approaches have been challenged by the

Foucaultian poststructuralist ideas even to a point that they seemed to meet their end McKenna (2004, pp. 10-14). CDA is a proper field for both of them to appear and simultaneously help each other to construct a better vision of the discourse and distinct it from other similar methods.

- *Materialism*

The perception of the discourse, which is largely presented by CDA, is based on materialist conception even to that extent that “social context relates to textual production”. As a notion which is taken from a Marxian theory, Bakhtinian language theory, and Foucaultian discourse theories, Foucault – one of the main figures who have had a great influence on the theoretical frame of the CDA (van Dijk, 2001) – believes that language and context are interwoven concepts. In other words, language acquires life in real and concrete communicational environment not in an abstract linguistic system of language or in the speakers’ mentality. The main specialty of discourse which separates it from a simple speech act is that as van Dijk says it takes place within a more extended frame of social practice (1997; Wodak, 1996). It is something which takes place “within a framework of understanding, communication and interaction which is in turn part of broader sociocultural structures and processes” (van Dijk, 1997, p. 21)

- *Historicity*

Spatio-temporality of any textual production is provided by the historicity of the discourse. A discourse is not something that merely happens in the present time but it contains many ideas and memories from the past and the groups, which have been involved in that discourse, too. Overall, it can be said that CDA looks at discourse as a diachronic process as much as it deals with the synchronic aspect of it. This idea finds its climax in discourse historical method of Wodak and intertextuality notion of Fairclough.²

- *Constructionism and constructivism*

The constructionism of discourse means that like what Wittgenstein means by the idea of “meaning is use”; there are different possible meanings for a word depending on the context in which the word is used. Although, sometimes, it has wrongly been understood as McKenna quotes Terwee (1995, p. 193) who pointing to such misunderstandings writes, sometimes the conclusion has been drawn like that, “we are free to construct any meaning we like.” By the other side, constructivism means that, at the same time that language can

² Later on, these topics will be elaborated.

reflect the reality it can produce reality. CDA believes that language can represent different layers of meaning dependant on the discourse in which it is acting and beside that one of the most important characteristics of language which appears in a discourse is the ability of it to represent and create realities.

- *Theories of subject*

Because of the relation between subject as a concept with agency and constructedness, this notion is very important in CDA. Althusser believes that individuals should be counted as the agents of ideology by constructing of their subjectivities. Despite the Marxian who only daresay to the external subject, Foucault believed that there are two internal and external subjects (McKenna, 2004). The conclusion of that discussion would be this fact that the process of power as political technology is accomplished through making subjective and productive bodies. Because some of the main issues that CDA is going to investigate are the questions of power and ideology, the usage of power and its mutual relation with ideology, the speaker production of text or other interaction forms will be very important because through this production, they can be the agent of ideology, as Althusser believes.

- *Ideology*

As already mentioned from Althusser, individuals through construction of their subjectivity are the agents of ideology. According to that, social practices, during which individuals construct their subjectivity, represent the ideology that is constructed discursively. In this relation, many definitions and explanations have been given; for example, a definition of ideology by Bourdieu and Eagleton who believe that it is a “spontaneous belief or opinion [that] . . . would seem unquestionable and natural” (Bourdieu & Eagleton, 1992 p. 112) or “things people accept without knowing” (p. 114). By other side, Hodge and Kress define it as “systemic body of ideas, organized from a particular point of view. Ideology so is subsuming category which includes science and metaphysics” (1993, p. 6). All of these cases can be the reflex of this fact that how much the question of ideology is important for CDA. Generally, we can say that the ideology governing a discourse is responsible for a major part of the circumstances taking place in that discourse. It determines the attitude of participants and adjusts the nature of the relation, which is between them. It is also responsible for other involving factors within the discourse that have an unconscious impact on the participants. It is obvious that one of the main elements that every discursive analysis should pay attention to is the ideology behind

the discourse. Just because of these, Rahimi and Sahragard believe that “any theory of language which is serious about social functions must take it into consideration” (2007, p.12)

- *Power*

There is a tight link between discourse and power and in the same way between power and knowledge. Foucault rejects the structuralist Marxian ideas about power and their notion of state apparatus and ideological state apparatus while he cannot present a clear theory about power; despite this fact there are three points, which CDA has borrowed from his discussion about power:

1. Discourse has the same capability to produce positive or negative outcomes
2. Power and power relations are produced in a system of social networks
3. There are certain criteria for any entity, which want to enter and influence the discourse.

Fairclough categorizes the relation of power and discourse in two classes of *power in discourse* and *power behind discourse* which alludes to the power of institutes or groups which are apparent within the text as the power in discourse and those which exist but their presence is not touchable and it is hidden (2001). Power is one of the basic notions of CDA and originally the very reason that justifies the existence of CDA is its tendency to survey the power relationship and the dominance, which can result in inequality, injustice and abuse.

The way that CDA works is a top-down method that despite the fact that power relations are bilateral, it only pays attention to those aspects of power abusing and dominance which are imposed from top to down e.g. from institutes or elites to the society or from majority to minority, etc. Besides, CDA is macro-level discourse analysis methods, which means that instead of paying attention to the grammatical aspect of the text within the text, as a separated unit, it deals with those aspects of text, which are in relation with the discursive definition of it. Although more modern version of CDA try to decrease the distance between these two features of the text and make a kind of combination and unity between them in a way that they act as complementary instruments to give to hand a better vision of the discourse and what is going on there. In other words as van Dijk believes these micro-level notions can direct the text to macro-level implications that helps to gain wider vision of the circumstance of power (re)production and other related subjects. Van Dijk writes

...it is theoretically essential to understand that there is no other way to relate macro-level notions such as group dominance and inequality with micro-level notions as text, talk, meaning and understanding. Indeed, the crucial notion of reproduction, needed to explain

how discourse plays a role in the reproduction of dominance, presupposes an account that relates discourse structures to social cognitions, and social cognitions to social structures. (1993b, p.280)

It is obvious that text analysis can take place in two distinct levels of macro or micro. Micro level deals with the participants of the text or the conditions, issues or people that directly are related to the text within the context whiles macro level deals with more prominent and major issues that can be related to context in higher level and beyond the actual condition of the text. For example, in normal social behavior, the analysis devoted to the people involved in the behavior, the place and time of the behavior and physical description of that behaviour consists the micro level of the analysis whiles in a higher level describing and investigating the power relations among the people and groups or studying the possible ideology which exists behind the text is related to macro level of the analysis (van Dijk, 2006c; van Dijk, 2007). In another view, maybe it is possible to say that macro level of analysis mostly is in relation with the groups, societies and the thinking and ideological bases that provide the groups and societies with intellectual resources and to a large extent it deals with the power relationships in these groups. At least, at one place, macro level analysis has been categorized to models of traditional and new macro analysis, which the first one is more based on the power relations, overall, seems to be more theoretical, and so farther than the micro level but, the later one is more in relation with the micro level and its components. In this sort of new macro analysis, the main emphasis is on the notion of interaction, which implies a stress on the relations between people within the context and their performances within the context. At the same time, from the viewpoint of the power relationships between the people as the participants of the context, the new macro method can determine which performances should be chosen for a specific situation. Regarding this point, van Dijk writes, “Obviously, this formulation is in terms of traditional macro-level categories, such as the power of groups, organizations and institutions. Especially relevant for discourse analysis [,] is of course also the more local, situated micro-level of social structure, that of interaction” (2006a, p.364).

But still CDA is not an entirely critical method and there are at least three serious problems with it which are classified by Chilton (2005, pp. 21-22) as follows

1. There is a question about the correctness of the nature of its method that as scientific discipline it acts as a social movements

2. CDA tends to works in the frame of one particular social theory and a particular linguistics type for example it does not deals with psychology or cognitive science or with generative grammar and even cognitive grammar.
3. CDA has added nothing to the current social knowledge of human; this is so strange for a discipline that insists so much on the social aspect of language and life.

Added to that Fairclough (1992, p. 28-29) reads that because of the one-way emphasis of the CDA on the effect of discourse on the social reproduction of the social relations and practices it “neglects both discourse as a domain in which social struggles take place, and change in discourse as dimension of wider social and cultural change”. Fairclough supposes that it is because of the interpersonal aspect of discourse that pays attention to the different methods of lexicalization, which causes people to have special ideological backgrounds and causes the interpreters to obtain those special ideologies in mind too. However, at the same time, it doesn’t treat other aspect of discourse such as change in discourse.

2-3-2 Evolution of CDA

CDA has some tendencies to Frankfurt School³ and the theory of some Marxist and neo-Marxist thinkers like Marx, Hall, Habermas and Foucault (Stubbe et al, 2003; van Dijk, 2001; Beaugrande, 2006; McKenna, 2004). Taking its roots from the ideas of Frankfurt school and Halliday’s SFG, first version of the discourse analysis emerged in some works by Fowler, Kress and Hodge (Sheyholislami, 2001; Fowler et al., 1979). They wanted to make a relationship and mixture of linguistics critical method with the theories, which deals with the function of language within the politics. It criticized two major accepted linguistical principles at that time of the 1970s. The principle of separateness between form and meaning and the idea of autonomy of language system from language use which was proposed by generative grammar of Chomsky. Against the first idea, using the SFG’s idea that the system of language is the system of choosing among choices and this choosing is among the formal choices, CDA reasoned that these selections could not be meaningless

³According to Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy (1998, p. 2910), the origin of Frankfurt school lies in the 1920s when some Marxists tried to adapt the Marxism theories with the need of that time. They are more distinguished because of their attempt to put every feature of social sciences in the frame of critical theory of society. Most of its innovations is the result of numerous articles that Max Holkhiemer wrote in the 1920s and 30s in criticizing idealist philosophy and contemporary empiricism and establishing a new historical philosophy that can explain the evolution of human reasoning. Analyzing cultural, economical and psychological aspect of the society he tried to analysis that how the rational organization of the society is achieved.

and according to that, there should be a relationship between the chosen form and the meaning conveyed by them. It also rejected the second one because according to the Halliday's idea who believed that "language is as it is because of its function in social structure" (1973, p. 65), different people have access to different forms of language and according to this there is a direct relationship between the usage of the language and the language system. As it is obvious, the principals of SFG had an undeniable effect on the growth of it. SFG principals have some reflection in the writing of almost entire of CDA practitioners like Hodge and Kress (1993), Fowler in his common work with Hodge and Kress (1979), van Dijk (2001), etc. In this relation as an example van Dijk writes "As with many other English and Australian studies in this paradigm, the theoretical framework of Halliday's functional-systemic grammar is used in a study of the "transitivity "of syntactic patterns of sentences" (2001, p.59). In addition, there is a quotation from Fairclough, which puts an emphasis on the importance of SFG for CDA; he reads, "There is much reference to 'transitivity', the aspect of the grammar of a clause or sentence that relates to its ideational meaning, that is, the way it represents reality.... The grammar provides different 'process types' and associated 'participants' as option, and systemic selection of a particular process type may be ideologically significant" (1992, p. 27). At the time that the SFG concepts are vastly used to determine the theoretical aspects of the CDA framework, the empirical facilities taken from SFG are so much used in works on the base of CDA. Nominalization is one of the transformational devices that can contain ideological implications since it can transform a phrase or a sentence with the formula of *X verb Y* into the form of *verbization of Y*. Through this process, it is possible for speaker to hide the agent and ignore the agency of verb; passivization is another form of transformational devices of SFG. It also can provide the speaker with an opportunity to do the same action in the similar way through passivizing the agent of the verb in the formula *X verb Y* and transform it to *Y verbed (by X)*. The metafunctions of SFG also have a vital role in interpreting the text and discourse and even before that in producing it. According to van Dijk (2005, p. 78), Fowler (1991, p. 71) and Fairclough (1992, p. 28), interpersonal metafunction encodes the speakers ideologies and attitudes within a communication and through the process of modality transfers it to the listener. Ideational metafunctions provide the speaker with an instrument to insert one's attitudes and ideologies within the language, which one uses to construct and construe the chain of perceptions about one's experiences and thoughts. All of these are possible within the textual function in that sense that text makes a proper base for these two metafunction to appear in the text. On her paper

on identification, Ivanič categorizes the various forms of discursive construction of identity and reads that there are three main classes, which respectively are constructed by address, by attribution and by affiliation. The important point here is that all of these kinds of identity are constructed through an interpersonal process (2006. p, 13). CDA also criticizes the sociolinguistics because it believes that sociolinguistics has not elaborated so much on the depth of the relation that can exist between the language and society. Actually, the problem of CDA with sociolinguistics here is that in CDA theorizers' idea, sociolinguistics has not gone in depth in some conceptions like the relation of language and power and the effect of language on the society and so on.

2-3-3 Major directions in CDA

There are different kinds of discourse analysis. These differences are due to the different usages of these analyses for example Wood and Kroger (2000, p.18) write that discourse analysis oriented in branch if philosophy, sociology, linguistics and literature. Because of this reason, it is believed that discourse analysis is multi-purpose. The same thing is true about CDA. There are some cases in which CDA has been applied to a literary text or political one or social discourses where CDA oriented in the relations of participants (Graham et al, 2004; Edwards, 2004; Łazuka, 2006; Bhatia, 2006; Stubbe et al, 2003). There is an additional factor here; the same text apart from its original discipline can be interpreted from different views. This refers to the basic orientation of the interpreter and the epistemological attitude one has toward CDA. Sheyholislami (2001) encounters three main directions in CDA, which anyone is recognized with one of the main figures of critical discourse analysis.

2-3-3-1 van Dijk and Socio-cognitive Model

Van Dijk is one of the most recognized figures of CDA and his ideas seem to be very important to this discipline since if not in all but in most of the resources used for preparing this study there are some references to his works and probably elaborating on his works will define the features of the socio-cognitive direction of CDA. He has done remarkable works regarding the racism in the news, representation of minorities and defining the notion of *Us* and *Other* or *ingroups* and *outgroups* when he explains the models in ideologies which will be elaborated below. The most signaled characteristic of his works is that he has elevated the analysis of discourse to something more than the mere analysis of structures and determining the possible interpretations of the text – by the

structural analysis of text, we mean the analysis of the grammatical component of the text. Rather he has dealt with the production and reception process of the news (Boyd-Barrett, 1994). Production process deals with the elements, which mostly are influential in the process of producing news like the financial or economic and social practices. Van Dijk believes that “Discourse is not simply an isolated textual or dialogic structure. Rather it is a complex communicative event that also embodies a social context, featuring participants (and their properties) as well as production and reception processes.”(1988a, p. 2). These practices are taken-for-granted to be not only influential on the process of making news but also determinative for the major policies of the institute, which produces news. Reception process refers to the way that news is comprehended and understood by the addressee. As the result of what has been said, we can say that van Dijk has proposed three levels of analysis, structure, production and reception and comprehension. He tries to tie these levels together and make smooth criteria for analyzing the text. These relationships according to him take place in two levels of microstructure and macrostructure levels. The earlier relates to the semantic relations of grammatical components of text which make it coherent and the other one deals with rhetoric elements such quotation, direct and indirect reporting, which make it to seem factual. However, macrostructure is the only level that van Dijk pays more attention to it because it is relevant to the thematic/topic structure of news stories and their overall schemata. Van Dijk defines schemata as a pattern that contains a headline, story and consequences. This last one is the final comment and conclusions that exists within the news and regarding this part he thinks that headlines and lead paragraphs more or less contain the most general information and addressee memorizes them better (1988a, pp. 14-16).

The other major notion that van Dijk has investigated so much is the notion of ideology and analyzing the discourse analysis as ideology analysis. As van Dijk says ideologies are produced and reproduced in discourses and communications and even the non-verbal semiotic texts like pictures and so on can have an impact in this (re)production (1995a, p. 17). Consequently, he proposes three levels of analysis for analyzing the ideologies within the text. Two of these analytical levels, including the social analysis and discourse analysis are the same with the traditional system of interpreting the text, in the sense that the social analysis is adopted to context analysis and discourse analysis is adopted to the text analysis in the traditional method (1995a, p.18; 2006b, p.161; 2006c, p. 115). However, the new gift of van Dijk to CDA is the third level of analysis, the cognitive analysis. The

sociocognition, which by itself is divided into social and individual cognition, is something between other two levels. He defines cognition as “the system of mental representations and processes of group members” (1995a, p.18) following his definition of cognition, he defines ideologies as “systems” (van Dijk, 2006c, p.116) that "indirectly influence the personal cognition of group members "(1995a, p. 19). The notions of ideology and context bring about the notion of *model*. Mental representation of individuals within a social action or interaction is called model. Defining the meaning of cognitive model he writes “The meaning or 'contera' of discourse is controlled by subjective interpretations of language users of the situation or events the discourse is about, that is by their mental *models*” (2006c, p.121). These models are so important in analyzing the role of ideologies within the society. They determine the norms within the society and the way that individuals think, behave and move. One of immediate results caused by recognition of individuals mental representation within the society is the possibility that helps to categorize the two major groups of Us versus Them where the participant or speaker generally tends to present oneself or one’s group in the positive terms and other groups in negative terms (van Dijk, 1995a, p. 22).

2-3-3-2 Wodak and Discourse Sociolinguistics

According to Sheyholislami (2001, p. 22) the sociolinguistics model of Wodak is based on the sociolinguistics in the Bersteinian tradition, and on the ideas of Frankfurt school especially those of Jürgen Habermas. The most prominent notion regarding Ruth Wodak is the *discourse historical method*, which is the result of her researches in racism and anti-Semitism as long as her other various researches in different places and social issues. The term of historical, here means a diachronic relation between the text and all other information in the background of the text. This process of reconstructing history and its existence within the text and through narratives takes place in different domains of life and in various ranges of genres (Pollak & Wodak, 2008). According to Sheyholislami (2001, p.23) her works showed that “context of the discourse had a significant impact on the structure, function, and context of the anti-Semitic utterances”. This emphasis on the historical (diachronic) aspect of the discourse makes her method different from other direction of CDA especially from that of van Dijk.

According to Wodak and Ludwig (1999, pp. 12-13) this method entails three things at least.

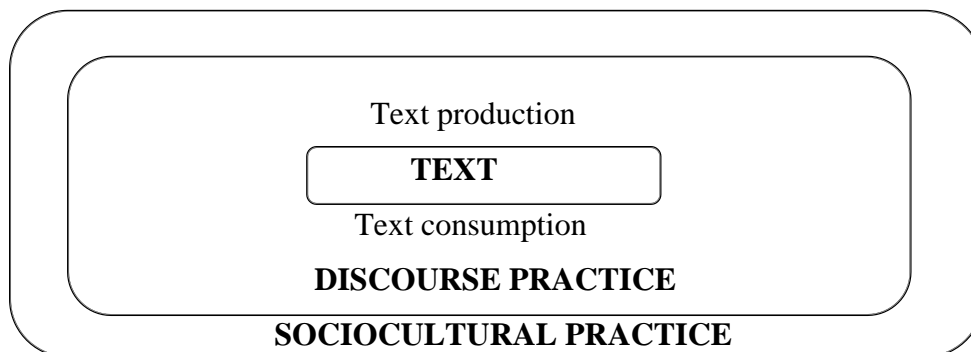
1. Discourse always involves power and ideologies. No discourse or social interaction can be found in which there is not the matter of power and hierarchy and privilege.
2. Discourses are always historical. Synchronically and diachronically, they are connected with other communicative events, which are happening, or already they have happened.
3. Dependant on the background knowledge and information and the position of individuals, different interpretations of the same communicative events is possible

The second stipulation of Wodak's method is so similar to Fairclough's intertextuality, which will be defined in the following section.

2-3-3-3 Fairclough and Critical Language

According to Sheyholislami (2001, pp.24-25) Fairclough calls his method critical language studies. This method mostly oriented in investigation of social-cultural aspects of language. Chuliaraki and Fairclough (1999) look at CDA as an approach that brings social sciences and linguistics together within a single theoretical and analytical framework, setting up a dialogue between them. (p.6). SFG has a special place in his analytical approach and besides he draws upon some theories of social science thinkers like Foucault (the concept of orders of discourse), Gramsci (concept of hegemony) and Habermas (concept of colonization of discourse) (Fairclough, 1989, pp. 4, 86; Fairclough, 1992, p. 1). Fairclough and Chuliaraki (1999) describe that "how profound economic social transformation" (p.30) have made many changes in social relation and discourse. Thus CDA, in this view, can help to theorize a new frame for creating awareness "of what is, how it has come to be, and what it might become, on the basis of which people may be able to make and remake their lives "(p.4). Such an analysis of language according to Fairclough should at least contain three analytical focuses, text, discourse practice and cultural studies, which are comparable with three analytical dimensions of van Dijk's ideology analysis, which respectively are discourse, sociocognition, and social analysis. Despite the resemblance, the main difference between van Dijk's approach and Fairclough's direction lays in the point that van Dijk supposes the social cognition to be the mediation between social and discourse whiles Fairclough puts this responsibility on discourse practices (Sheyholislami, 2001, p. 26). In what follows, a general image of Fairclough's framework for analyzing the communicative events is presented.

- Text :analyzing the text, Fairclough applies his analysis to all of lexico-grammatical and semantic properties of text; simultaneously he looks at text form different views as SFG always does. (Metafunctions)
- Discourse practices :this practice can be divided in two institutional process and discourse process. Discourse practice straddles the division between society and culture on one hand and discourse and language and text on the other hand.



Picture 2-2. A framework for critical discourse analysis of communicative event by Fairclough (Sheyholislami, 2001, p. 27)

- Sociocultural practice :sociocultural practice for Fairclough contains the analysis of text with a special attention to economic, cultural and political aspect of communicative events. What follow are some considerations about these sociocultural elements.
 - a) *Access to media* .while analyzing a text, it is very important that who have access to media and what implication the answer to this question will bring to the society. In Fairclough's and also van Dijk's views different people and groups don't have the same access to the news
 - b) *Economy of the media*: since the economy is a key-term in analysis of the behavior of any institute and since like any other institute, the news production institutes have something for sell. According to this, it is very important for them to satisfy the consumers. This easily can affect the process of determination something as news and rejecting something else.
 - c) *The politics of media*: one of the other influential conceptions on the overall process of making news is the general policies that are followed by media. This

general tendencies can also cause some special choices on the news selection mainstream

- d) *Practices of media text production and consumption*: production of the news contains some routine practices like gathering the news, selection, writing and editing (Fowler, 1991) and consumption mainly refers to the way that readers comprehend the text. As the result of some elements, like shortage of the space and selection by journalists on one hand, and different understanding of the texts by different readers caused by their different social ranks on the other hand, the producing process of news can be affected.

Overall, the best notion that can possibly explain and describe the major level of discourse analysis of Fairclough's method is the notion of intertextuality.

- Intertextuality

Intertextuality analysis is a level of analysis within discourse analysis. According to Fairclough (1992, p.84)

Intertextuality is basically the property texts have of being full of snatches of other texts, which may be explicitly demarcated or merged in, and which the text may assimilate, contradict, ironically echo, and so forth. In terms of production, an international perspective stresses the historicity of texts :how they always constitute additions to existing 'chain of communication'...consisting of prior of text to which they respond.

In a simple language, intertextuality is a property of text; according to which, a text is not something apart from other texts and discourses, rather it is related to other diachronic and synchronic discourses that explicitly –like when there is a quotation in the text – or connotatively through assimilates, contradicts, etc, can leave a trace in the sentence. Therefore, it resembles the second properties that Wodak and Ludwig ascribe to the discourse historical method (Wodak & Ludwig, 1999, pp. 12-13). Fairclough (1992, p. 85) defines two types of intertextuality, manifest intertextuality and constitutive intertextuality. The former one refers to “heterogeneous constitution of text by which specific other texts are overtly drawn upon within a text” but on the other hand constitutive intertextuality refers to “heterogeneous constitution of texts out of elements (type of convention) of order of discourse (interdiscursively)”.

Each one of these methods, provide the analyst with some useful devices to conduct the research and they does not seem to be completely separated from each other. Van Dijk makes available the necessary vision about the power relationships, defines some notions like ingroups and outgroups and the way they affect each other. Wodak helps the

researcher to link the discourse with its historical background and reminds him/her that one's analysis is direct offspring of one's ideology, and social and cultural position. Wherever the researcher is going to link the discourse to other discourses and investigate the relationship among them, or whenever the analyst remembers that any discourse is not a separated structure and it is simultaneously in relation with other structures and discourses, s/he is actually dealing with those aspects of discourse that Fairclough has gone through them immeasurably.

2-4 Literature Review

CDA and its approach have had a loud voice among the discourse analyst and interpreters. There are numerous writings, which have dealt with theoretical aspect of it or have used it as method for analysis the sociocultural or even political events. Certainly, more various subjects are located in the field of CDA framework. They contain a long list of social issues such as racism, representing the minorities, international issues, a conversation between some colleagues in a workplace, and so on. A justifiable reason for this vast range of verity in the subjects of CDA can be explained in the first aspect of a social discourse designated by Wodak and Ludwig (1999, pp. 12-13). They assert that in all of the discourses there are the power relations, hierarchy and privilege. Since, wherever there are such relations, CDA can come in and begin its job, a remarkable possibility for choosing the issues can be made allowance for CDA.

What is going on in the presented study is an international conflict, by which, on one hand, a country described as a state is going to make nuclear weapons and constantly is ignoring the human rights. On the other hand, there is a powerful country trying to stop the earlier to reach nuclear bomb and to make it be respectful to the international treaties on human rights. It is a general view of the sampled data that later on will be discussed. This motif has frequently been repeated among the studies done in the field of CDA. Butt, Lukin and Matthiessen (2004), in their paper have investigated the perturbation created by 9/11 and discursive layers resulted from it by studying the systemic functional grammar of two speeches by the United States ex-president George W. Bush as his first one after 9/11 and British Lieutenant Colonel Tim Collins as he exhorts his troops before engagement in war against Iraq of 2003. These two speeches, according to Butt et al, both have something in common and they are different in some ways. The speech by Bush describes the world

after the attacks to New York and the Pentagon as if it was morally an asymmetrical world and this asymmetry is revealed in grammatical allocations. Collins representation of the beforehand battle is the image of family mission which is mixed with some themes of Old Testament that give the righteous right of destruction of enemy to his soldiers. According to Butt et al., here “it is the grammar which carries the burden of discriminating between those to be protected and those to be targeted. Ideology in language follows from the fact that we can construct multiple versions of the ‘same’ physical, biological, social and semiotic events.” (p. 26)

Linguistically, what happened on September 11, 2001 is a very important event. It made the world of discourses so different from what it was on the day before it. The changes caused by those attacks were physical, biological, social and even semiotic in that sense that after that event people had personalized meaning of potential experiences, memories, etc. It is the exact thing that Butt and his Colleagues call system of different orders. Among all of these new orders, they are interested in new semiotic orders (changes in the semiotics). This variation in the semiotic discourse of after 9/11 is apparent in both of the speeches because both of them “are part of creating sociocultural contexts that explain and validate action to be taken.” (p. 296). But contextually, they are different in this sense that the first one is a formal address to the nation made by a team of speech writers with many pencil-edited while the second one does not possess any sign of being managed by or for the media, although it received widespread coverage. Considering all of these matters this article has deeply gone through the lexicogrammatical patterning of content – those patterning created by the wording of the text. The methodology of paper contains the analysis of each text separately and then doing a comparison between them. These analyses include the analysis of context, transitivity and modality system of the first one and the analysis of context and textual, interpersonal and experiential patterns of the second one.

The first speech according to the Butt et al. (p. 271) accumulates different and even contrastive situations; it appears to evoke both institutional and individuated content and while it is in the written form yet “crafted to create a certain figure as spoken delivery and in face to face and electronically carried forms”. This speech is unique from another view. Because of the international aspect of what happened in 9/11 and using the incomparable and unexampled media coverage of the speech, it attracted the most addressees that a similar speech has ever gained; no one of previous U.S. had ever experienced such number before.

Analyzing the transitivity of the Bush speech, Butt and his colleagues write that when U.S. has the actor role, most of the time, future tense is dominant as the result of an emphasis on what the United States is going to do in future and deemphasizing what it has done in past or its previous habitual activities. Butt et al. reads

Bush's speech both demonizes, and sanitizes :he depicts the 'enemy' as violent and brutal, while the actions to be taken by the US in response are presented in neutral or positive terms, through abstract modes of representation. His speech combines a simple logical structure, in which events are construed as predominantly a set of accumulating 'facts' (see additional analysis on the website). The 'factness' of these 'facts' is created by the virtual absence of modality, so that the world is presented in terms of 'is' and 'isn't'. (p.276)

The second one contextually is something completely different. It addresses a number of demanding audiences and there are military and politically hierarchies monitoring the performance. The writers of the article, analyzing the textual patterns of Collins' speech believe that macro-themes of the speech through the over-repetition and having been used in the end of speech have become macro-new. The next prominent textual notion used in the Collins' speech is the *hierarchy of periodicity*, which means that there is a special organization of the flow of information from the addresser to the addressee.

Interpersonally, the text is so complicated "partly because Collins has to constrain his troops at the same time as he incites them to action in battle" (p. 281). Butt et al. mentions that Collins uses *interpersonal assessment* as an interpersonal strategy to rebuilt the connotation of some negative-meaning notions like *enemy* and *doubt* through adding them some lexical components like *no* in *no doubt*. Experimental analysis of them shows that Collins' experimental choices makes a number of metaphorical patterns. They write, "the relationship between the experience of the world of warfare and Collins' construal of it in the grammar is often 'indirect'" (p.283). The possible reason of it is that originally language is considered with a protocol for warfare not a procedure in that sense that it is an practical instruction of the troops to teach them how to fight in a special position, and this protocol is indirect because it includes abstractions and metaphor. These are all the possibilities that language can offer to convey a special meaning using the special word. It helps to construct ideology to offer multiple versions of the same physical, social and semiotic events. The flexibility of language gives the human an opportunity to apply it to so many different situations from an ordinary daily conversation to the modeling a universal experience. This is a characteristic of the language that Hasan calls *plasticity of language* (1996).

The linguistic effect of 9/11 is so great that many studies have been devoted to it and its consequences. One of the most important sources for writing about 9/11 is the speeches which have been given by the personalities who are engaged in the conflict whether in western countries or among the extremists. Among these speeches, those that belong to the U.S. president are more important and because of it the next paper by Graham, Keenan and Dowd (2004) has dealt with it. They have compared a speech of declaration of war of Bush with three other similar speeches in the last millennium by pope Urban II in 1095 who declared the Crusade War, Queen Elizabeth I in 1588 who declared war on the Spain and Adolf Hitler on 1938 before Germany's annexation of Austria.

This study has a discourse-historical approach similar to what described as one of the main directions in CDA that is theorized by Wodak. It "tries to integrate systematically all available background information in the analysis and interpretation of many layers of spoken or written text." (2004, p. 202). The speeches and texts calling to arms and war mostly have some characteristics in common and it is relevant to these texts too.

- A legitimating power source external to the orator
- The history (mythologically, world-historically, or otherwise conceived) of the social system in which the text is located
- An evil and aberrant Other
- A unifying construct (religious, racial, political, philosophical, or nationalistic) that links members of the social system to the externally legitimating power source invoked by the orator

The paper has surveyed those features in these speeches. Contextually analyzing these speeches one can say all of them are influential declaration in the history of past millennium. The world after each speech was not the same as it was before (p. 204). The similarities between these speeches are very impressive. All of these speeches in a way, appeal to external legitimating power sources, pope Urban II as the representative of God speaks for God and what he says actually are the God's words, Elizabeth I speaks for God, her people, her honor, her blood and even dust of her country. At the beginning of twentieth century, the nation-state becomes the supreme source of legitimacy for Adolf Hitler and finally Bush acquires his lost legitimacy after the so-called corrupted presidential election of 2000 in the U.S. by inviting people to support him in the war against terrorism. Here the nationalistic themes beside the religious encouragements are the main source of his legitimacy after 9/11. All of the speeches have some signs of appealing

to the history to justify their war against a foreign enemy. Pope Urban II “calls upon 300 years of Frankish history and Carolingian mythology to exhort the population to attack the Middle East” (p. 209). Elizabeth I “likes herself with the kingly past of to which Britons were unquestionably accustomed” (p.210). Hitler uses the historical mythology of Germanic nationalism and Bush appeals to the historical mythology of the Americans and the notions of modern welfare and a Hollywood-style image of his country’s involvement in the Second World War. All of these speeches construct the evil other, Pope Urban describes the enemy as the follower of alien religion whose aim is to occupy Christians Holy Land and destroy churches. Enemies of Queen Elizabeth are described by her as foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe who dares to invade the borders of her realms (p. 212). Enemies of Hitler make a long list among which, Jews, communists, lunatics, criminals, terrorists, reactionaries, critical scholars, aberrant theological types can be mentioned. For Bush they are evildoers, terrorists, suicide bombers, etc. the final generic feature of call to arms text is the appeal for unification under the external legitimating power. Urban attempts to unite the Franks under Christ to fight the Crusades. Elizabeth “deploys a hybrid appeal to feudal and mercantile rewards” (p. 214), Hitler uses the socialist ideals and Utopian nation-state to unify the Germans and Bush promises the Utopian version of peace retribution. Finally Graham et al. conclude that at functional-theoretical level the results of the study can be taken as a proof for concept of *societal order of discourse* introduced by Fairclough that asserts that “the particularities of such texts have changed to both reflect and significantly affect the changing orders of discourse at macro-social, macroeconomic and macro-political levels” (p. 215). In the similar way to Butt et al., the writers of this paper put emphasis on the instrumental aspect of language as a semiotic system (in a general sense which contains spoken language, imagery, media). They read “language, images, and media are a significant part of the weaponry of mass destruction – the question for discourse analysts, applied linguists, and the like is this :what do we do?” (p. 216).

The relationship between Tehran and Washington has always been focused upon and observed by various scholars among different disciplines among them CDA intellectuals and investigators. One of these researches has been done by Izadi and Biria (2007). After comprising the editorials related to Iran in three elite American newspapers, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*, they indicate that the last two newspapers more drew on Orientalist argument than did The New York Times. Although

the paper mostly sounds to be political in comparison with its linguistical aspect, still it uses the CDA notions like naming choices and lexical choices and ideological argument. They conclude that ‘their critical discourse analysis also... reveals how the three elite newspapers’ editorials selectively framed the issues surrounding the Iranian nuclear dispute by employing linguistic, stylistic, and argumentative maneuvers’(p. 161).

Sheyholislami (2001) has written his thesis on a CDA of an international issue too. He has investigated the reflection of Iraqi Kurdistan crises of 1988 after chemical bombardment of Halabja and 1991 after Saddam’s attack on the same region, in the American and Canadian newspapers. Using the SFG and CDA analytical methods he examines the headlines and full stories of *The New York Times* of the United States and *The Globe and Mail* of Canada. He applies the analysis of transitions to the headlines and also analyzes the full stories using the investigating the name choosing (namings), lexical choices, overcompleteness cases and voices devoted to the Iraqi authorities and Kurd sources. The result shows that in 1988 when Iraq was a friend of West –because it was in war against Iran and its revolutionary government – its conflict with Kurds was regarded an internal problem and in the same time Kurds were portrayed as separatists. Whiles in the second period when after invading Kuwait, Iraq became an enemy of West, its problem with Kurd was monitored as an international conflict that needed international support for Kurds. Sheyholislami reads, “It has also illustrated that examining the discourse of the mainstream media, as a source of information and knowledge about world affairs, could reveal how events and issues come to be news, and how the media mediates them” (p. 141)

Chapter 3

Methodology

3-1 Data

The data selected for this study are from online version of daily *The New York Times* (NYT). These data have been selected in two periods before Obama comes to the office and after that. Gathering the data, at first all of the news reports related to Iran in 2008 and 2009 were downloaded¹. During downloading, I took it into consideration that if selected news stories are categorized as the official news of the newspaper or they are classified as *opinion*. It is obvious that I have rejected the opinion writings because they do not represent the media's official viewpoints. The selected news stories for this study are from the pages of world – Middle East part – or U.S. – Washington part². The reasons behind choosing NYT for analysis were the high rate of circulation of it, third in the United States³ after the *USA Today* and the *Wall Street Journal* and its more moderate positions in comparison with other main national dailies of the United States like the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*. NYT serves an intermedia agenda-setting function for other news sources and also vastly covers the international issues (Izadi & Saghaye-Biria, 2007, p. 148)

I decided to limit the time length within which the data were selected for some reason. Firstly, at the best condition when the analysis was begun Obama had spent some months in the office while Bush was the president for eight years and it is really important to have the same condition for both of periods which are to be compared. At the similar condition, Sheyholislami (2001) when chooses two newspapers from America and Canada for his analysis of the representation of Iraqi government and Kurd rebellions in two periods of 1988 and 1991, regarding the difference of populations of America and Canada, he selects the different amount of data from these newspapers to make equal the final number of readers. Secondly, since the time that Obama was

¹ They were downloaded from <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/iran/index.html?8qa&scp=1-spot&sq=iran&st=nyt>

² <http://www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/help/siteindex.html#news>

³ On the base of data retrieved from <http://www.infoplease.com/ipea/A0004420.html>

campaigning for presidential election of 2008 in America, he frequently stressed the change in the method of exchange with Iran⁴. This policy that provides Iranian authorities with an ideal fortune to improve its relations with the United States was stable until the presidential election of June 2009 in Iran when the atmosphere was changed after U.S administration's criticism of Iran behavior with the protesters who were not satisfied with what had been published as the result of elections. However, the early aim of this study was a linguistical one, which tried to investigate the bilateral influence of power and language on each other through studying something like a change in the language of a power institute in two periods. As the result, because the subject of the study was the change in the attitude of the United States politicians toward Iran, the domain of the study could continue until the moment that this change in manner lasts. Therefore, the data selection for the second period was limited to the June 12, 2009, which is exactly 142 days after January 21, the day that Obama came to the office. On the other side, the same period was calculated from January 21, 2009 backward that means the September 1, 2008. Randomly 20 news reports were selected and their headlines were chosen to be analyzed using transitivity grammar among them and again randomly 10 stories were chosen to be analyzed with using CDA components.

3-2 Methods of analysis

3-2-1 headlines

Headlines summarize the story and put them in some words. This summarizing entails choosing of special words to represent the preferred mentality of the writer or editor of the text. According to this, headlines are important because of two reasons; firstly, they attract most of the reader's attention because they "are first and on top, and usually in bigger type than the text—that is, there are also visual markers that emphasize the importance of the global topic of the text" (van Dijk, 2006c, p. 135) . Secondly, they can imply certain ideologies because headlines give a possibility to the writer to convey a special kind of interpretation of that text among various other possible interpretations and consequently to form the mind of the readers in a special way. Van Dijk reads "Language users employ ... [some special] macro-structures in order to understand globally and to summarize a text. In news discourse, the top of this macro-structure is conventionally expressed in the headline and the lead paragraph. (1991, p. 113)

⁴ The news stories of *NYT* in the next chapter clearly show it.

Headlines of this study have been investigated using transitivity grammar introduced by Halliday as it was mentioned in 2-2-2. Here in this section a more in detail description of this system will be presented.

Transitivity is the grammar of experience and beside that it's "the key analytic component of ideational metafunction and provides us with the potential required for categorizing the infinite verity of occurrence or going on into a finite set of process types" (Teo, 2000, p. 25), it expresses "who did what to whom in what condition" to put in exact words. Therefore, any transitivity analysis contains three major components :the process (what) the participants (who and whom) and circumstances (in what condition). Verbs (what) as the main process-describer components of a clause, at the side of their specific meanings can convey a special kind of process which is undergoing in that clause. According to it, all of the verbs, which are used in the language, can be categorized in six categorizations (processes). Every kind of experiences can be dominated by one of these processes and vice versa, every one of these process can formulate a model to construe a particular domain of experiences.

The different types of these process drive from the differences between human's different kinds of experiences at first months of her/his life. There are two different kinds of experiences; the first one is those experiences related to human's inner understanding and consciousness (**mental process**) and the next one to his/her experiences of outer world (**material process**). The next categorization relates to those occurrences in which a generalization or relating a fragment of experience to other fragments takes place (**relational process**). In their categorization of English verbs, Halliday and Matthiessen write, "Material, mental and relational are the main type of processes in the English transitivity system" (2004, p.171). Anyhow, these categorizations are not the only processes mentioned in Halliday's SFG. There are other processes, which have some specifications of two or three main classifications and can be placed within the boundaries of them although they may seem so hard to define but they can be understood and recognized by language speakers. One of them which lays between mental and material processes is **behavioral process** which is the outer manifestation of inner contemplation. In the boundary of relational and mental process, there is **verbal process**. Verbal process is "symbolic relationships constructed in human consciousness and enacted in the form of language, like saying and meaning" (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004 p.171). **Existential Process** has been placed in

borderline of relational and material process where an outer realization is connected and related to fact of existence.

Table 3.1 :Process types, their meanings, and key participants, Halliday (1994, p. 143)

Process type	Category meaning	Participants
Material: action event	'doing' 'doing' 'happening'	Actor, Goal
Behavioral	'behaving'	Behaver
Mental: perception affection cognition	'sensing' 'seeing' 'feeling' 'thinking'	Senser, Phenomenon
Verbal	'saying'	Sayer, Target
Relational: attribution identification	'being' 'attributing' 'identifying'	Carrier, Attribute Identified, Identifier; Token, Value
Existential	'existing'	Existent

Each of these processes, as mentioned above contains other components such as participants, which are described in table 3.1. The circumstances related to these processes are crucial to analysis too. Using these items one can interpret what is behind the headlines and to which side the general stream of choosing the headlines of media show tendencies. According to that in the analysis of headlines transitivity the processes attributed to Iran and by the other to America, the roles played by them and the circumstances, in which these attributions are taking place will be surveyed. Here a question may arise. If the study is going to find out the attitude of *NYT* toward Iran in these periods, so what it has to do with the United States? The fact is the situation of the United States in comparison with Iran works as a thermometer and helps to have a better understanding of state of affairs of Iran.

3-2-2 full-text stories

Analyzing the full-text stories, I have adopted the analytical facilities of CDA to show the wide range of analytical components of it. Achieving this aim, the name choosing process, lexical choices, cases of overcompleteness and the voices devoted to Iran and in some cases to the United States through the text have been investigated. The truth is that there are many more possibilities to analysis a text through the analytical instruments of CDA but the question is that if all of them fit the text which is going to be analyzed or not. For example, Teo (2000) uses the *generalization* and *over-lexicalization*; the first one is defined as generalizing a feature of a member of a group to all members of that group entirely. For example, characterizing a minority group as evil or responsible for all of problems of majority because of a crime done by one of the members of that minority group can be counted as a clear case of generalization. The later refers to introducing marked case of unmarked position of a word through adding some extra words. For example, while *attorney* generally and in the unmarked case means *male attorney*, using the extra explanation of *female attorney* makes it be in its marked case and it is counted as an example for over-lexicalization. Teo (2000) has used this element to analyze the cases of the over-lexicalization to investigate the approach of Australian newspapers toward the Southeast Asian minorities and to interpret if there is a case of racism against them. Generalization also has the same condition. It is mostly used in the studies, which survey the situation of minorities within a society. However, on the other side there are some other elements, which to some extent seem to be common among most of the studies done in the field of practical investigation of the relation of power and language. Studying the transitivity system is one of them that most of the time is a part of such studies. It is because of the clear outcomes about the relational place of discourse segments that analyzing the transitivity system gives to hand. Following there is an explanation of every CDA analytical component which are used in this study

- Naming choices

The way that people are named in the texts can contain both ideological implication and power-relation reflections. Wardhaugh reads

... the asymmetric use of title, last name, and first name (TLN/FN) [respectively stand for title, last name and first name] indicated inequality in power ... mutual TLN inequality and unfamiliarity, and ... mutual FN indicated equality and familiarity. The switch from mutual TLN to FN is also usually initiated by more powerful member of the relationship (1986, p. 259)

On the other side beside the reflection of power-relation, the naming choices can indicate the ideological implication. In other instance, Wardhaugh illustrates that whites sometimes address blacks by their first names in situations that they should call them by title or title and last name. (1989, p. 260). This way of naming represents the ideologies of these people. In the same manner Fowler, Kress and Trew (1979) believe that different ways of naming indicated different attitude, approach and intimacy relationships of the speaker or writer to the one/ones whom are spoken to or written about.

Using all of these indications the study will examine the naming choices for Iran and in the same way for the United States to illustrate the approach of the newspaper toward Iran and as it was mentioned before, toward the United States. In the international scope of this study naming the countries with their full formal name, calling the authorities with their full title or with all of possible honorifics can imply the possession of power and authority for the named people and in the contrary naming, those people without the mentioned sequences can indicate the opposite. For example naming the president of the United States with his full title like *President George W Bush* can resemble more authority in contrast to the situation in which he is simply named *Bush*. The study will examine if there is any difference between the naming pattern of two countries or not.

- Lexical choices

Lexical choice is an eminent aspect of news discourse in which hidden opinions or ideologies may surface. According to van Dijk "... the powerful position of the speaker may be emphasized by a very formal setting, attire, tone of voice, lexical choice, and so on" (2006a, 376). He also believes that "The boundaries of topics and of possible lexical variance are set in advance, even when there is personal and newspaper variation in the description of the same things" (1988b, p. 75) The main question about choosing a lexicon to be used in a special place is the matter of choosing itself. The basis of SFG in which CDA has a long root, is the matter of choosing among some possible choices for a certain place instead of other possibilities. These special kinds of choices can imply ideological tendencies. As an example, using the object pronoun of *her/him* instead of using *him* as the object pronoun for sexual-unclear cases can reflect the feminist considerations within the text, which is going to be analyzed. In another example, using *chairperson* instead of *chairman* can stand for the same implications. There are even more examples in the data used for the present study. While Iranian authorities use *martyrdom* for

describing losing some soldiers in a conflict in Southeast of Iran, *NYT* use the verb of *kill* to describe the same situation (NYT, December 4, 2008). The study is going to survey the case of meaningful lexical choices to explore the taken approach of *NYT* regarding Iran. Doing this, first I will signify the main themes of lexical choices for both periods of before and after Obama and then I will base my reasoning, analysis and conclusion on that. The main point here is that the differences between lexical choices in these two periods are so colorless and faded that it needs a lot of attention to analyze and comprehend the differences between what happens in these circumstances. I found out that it is possible only through determining the themes and motifs of these times and comparing them together.

- Overcompleteness

As van Dijk indicates “In a similar sense we also may have overcompleteness if in a sequence of a certain degree of completeness we have a subsequence that specifies more facts than needed.” (1980, p. 92). Later on, he divides the different types of overcompleteness and enumerates two major groups of acceptable (functional) and unacceptable. Defining the unacceptable kind of overcompleteness he writes “Overcompleteness ... is also sometimes unacceptable, especially if there are no obvious communicative reasons to give so much detail”. (1980, p. 92). However, there is also a functional type, whose application is due to the future happenings within the text and it is counted to be acceptable. Using the overcompleteness cases, text can contain some special ideological tendencies and it can shape a particular image of what the writer of the text wants to draw. It can be used to draw an extraordinary positive or negative description of a subject although as Sheyholislami quotes van Dijk (1993b, p.258) he has mentioned that it is used “to convey a negative picture of a news actor”. From the same source Sheyholislami reads an example from van Dijk in which a British mayor is described as former peasant farmer from Pakistan, here van Dijk has token it as a form of overcompleteness because it "does not exactly contribute to an impression of expertise or credibility "given the kind of responsibilities he has (p. 259).

In the same line with van Dijk and taking model from what Sheyholislami has done in his M.A. thesis, I will study the cases of overcompleteness within the text to understand in which way and where *NYT* has given some irrelevant information to the subject to make a desired picture of Iran. Since the domain of changes is so narrow, determining the themes of every period and

comparing them together will be very useful. Regarding each theme, the cases will be mentioned and it will be analyzed if the drawn picture is positive or negative.

- Voices

The first and the most important thing that the voices bring to the mind is Fairclough's idea of intertextuality, which has been mentioned before. Voices and quotations as mentioned before in 2-3-3-3 are explicit examples of "heterogeneous constitution of text by which specific other texts are overtly drawn upon within a text" (Fairclough 1992, p. 85). Van Dijk has always put an emphasis on the role of voices and quotations in the representation of the power relations between different social groups and structure of hierarchies that demonstrate these relations. He believes that "Such exclusion may also mean that the less powerful are less quoted and less spoken about, so that two other forms of (passive) access are blocked (1993a, p.260). In another quotation, he points toward the voice and quotation and writes, "This also shows that news gathering and quotation in news are often biased through the choice of sources and the uses of source texts. Demonstrators and Mendis are not allowed to speak, as I have generally found for the role of minority speakers in ethnic affairs coverage" (1993a, p.260), he also believes that "Similarly, in most social conflicts, authorities such as high ranking politicians, experts, or police officers are asked their description of and evaluation of the facts" (1988b, p. 78). All of these extracts about quotation simply mention the amount of voice that a person or a group possesses in the text and it is directly in relation to its social rank and the amount of its accessibility to the power sources. The next important matter about the quotations is the directness or indirectness of quotation. Teo (2000, p. 18) believes that in the case of quoting of minorities, media keep distance from the sources or quote them with suspicion. In other words, mostly they are quoted indirectly. In addition to the mere question of quotation, there is the question of how the quotation takes place. According to van Dijk (1988b, p. 136) "The use of communicative verbs in clauses that dominate embedded content clauses used in indirect discourse, sometimes express the evaluation of the reporter about the content of the speaker". Although this phenomenon can be inferred in, the frame of the media's taking distance from the minority sources but anyhow the same quotation can be represented in various forms and it is a useful clue to recognize the ideological tendencies of the text.

So analyzing the quotation patterns and voices, through drawing some tables which indicates the number of the times that Iranians are quoted directly or indirectly and designates the sum number

of quotation frequencies, I will try to prepare a clear view of what is going on in the data and the way that basically the writers of *NYT* look at Iran. Like other times, an analysis of American quoted source accompanies to draw a more crystallized image. The number of the direct or indirect quotations and sum of them can be a good reason for finding out the power relations and the bilateral relation of power and language, which is the ultimate aim of this study.

Chapter 4

Data analysis

4-1 Headlines and grammar of transitivity

In this part of analysis, I will show that what kinds of approaches *NYT* has used toward Iran. In addition, I am going to investigate the relationship of Iran and the United States in the headlines and news title used by this newspaper in stories related to Iran in both periods of before and after Obama. Doing that, I am going to analyze the processes within the sentences to see what the (major) role of each of countries is and beside that, using the features of SFG like topicalization, more realities about the nature of used sentences will be revealed.

4-1-1 Bush time

- *Iran*

During the analysis of these sentences, the most apparent fact about Iran is that in the first period, this country is extremely introduced as a powerful country, which owns a horrific nature to do evil. Besides Iran is to be illegitimated through being introduced as a country whose claims are not reliable and its achievements are just some assertions done by it. A statistical analysis of the processes and the roles of Iran in those processes exposes that the maximum numbers of the roles that Iran has played in this processes relates to the agent of material processes and the next one is the sayer of verbal processes (table 4-1).

Table 4-1. Iran's roles in processes, in percentage in the Bush time

Processes →	Material	Mental	Relational	Verbal	Behavioral	Existential
Roles ↓	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agent/Sayer/Carrier	40		4	32	8	
Patient/Receiver	4			4	4	
Beneficiary		4				

These percentages show that mostly Iran has played the role of an agent and this can draw a powerful image of this country. This is not the only role attributed to Iran in this processes and

beside that Iran has done, as a great sayer in the verbal processes but there are some problems with both of Iran's roles.

Regarding the first role, although Iran is the agent of the processes but in most of the cases it is the agent (doer) of a negative-meaning action. For example, in the following instance, Iran is the doer of the negative connoted verb of *raid* and it becomes worse when it is followed by the phrase of *office of rights advocate*. This sentence identifies Iran's government as an administration, which shows no respect for human rights, a government that has many problems with advocates who defend the citizenship right of Iranian society.

1. Iranian authorities raid offices of rights advocate (December 29, 2008)

In the next example Iranian government is known responsible for hanging 22 people in a week, something so strange in western countries but not illegal according to Iranian laws. The main point about this instance is that there is not any kind of identification of these hanged people while in the main story NYT has quoted Iranian news agencies and media that these people originally has been convicted for the drug trafficking, murdering and other crimes for which people may be sentenced to death In Iran. Topicalization of Iran in this sentence puts the main stress on Iran as the definite doer of hangings instead of the essence of the news of execution itself. In other words what is more important is the doer of the act not the act itself.

2. Iran hangs 22 in executions this week. (January 22, 2009)

The next instance can be counted as an additional proof for the previous example where topicalized Iran is the agent of the verb of *imprison* which connotes a negative meaning and worse, Iran does this on the base of an accusation that finally is done by itself. According to Sheyholislami (2001) who quotes Van Dijk (1993a) who "... suggests that when a saying is placed in quotation marks, or it is accompanied by such words as "claim," "alleged," or "accuse," "we may conclude that the reporter takes at least some distance from the statement "(p. 252)" (p. 74). In other words these kinds of verbs are used to show that what is quoted is just is just the viewpoint of a person who has said it and as the result, it puts no responsibility on the shoulder of the person who is quoting. Consequently, these verbs decrease the amount of reliability of the quoted words and represent the process in a way as if it is not correct or at least it faces serious questions. Putting this in another word one can say that in the following example Iran which is

topicalized as the doer of negative connoted verb of imprison based on no reason has limited the freedom of some innocent people since it fears a possible rebel against the country's government.

3. Iran imprisons 4 it had accused of rebellion (January 17, 2009)

There is another example, which nearly resembles the same result as concluded in the previous example where Iran is the doer of verb of *jail* and the patients of process are two prominent doctors. Nevertheless, the point here is that there is no kind of explanation to show why Iran should jail the doctors. But later on in the full story they are accused of plotting against the Iranian government, what which at the first glance does not possess a mental relationship with the career of a person who is a doctor. Just because of this lack (hiding) of information, it does not make so much sense that why Iranians have captured two doctors and just this issue by itself leads in worse charges against Iran's government. However if the fact that they are captured because of their political activities, had been mentioned in the headline, that would not make so much difference in the circumstance originally.

4. Iran says it jailed 2 prominent doctors (January 19, 2009)

There are also some cases in which although Iran has not been topicalized like the previous examples but still it is the doer of a negative-meaning verb. In this example, the clause of *documents say* has been topicalized to show that what has been said in the later part of the sentence contains proved details and largely is reliable. In the next part Iran is the doer of process of *aiding the militias* who are resisting coalition troops in Iraq.

5. Documents say Iran aids militias from Iraq (October 18, 2008)

The next example also has used the make-ambiguous-technique to attribute a negative-meaning process to Iran. Here Iran has said that it is getting missiles but it is not mentioned what kind of missiles from where and for what. Actually during the period that Iran is in a long-last conflict with the West over its nuclear program and whiles this country continually is charged of trying to make a nuclear bomb, such an expression may contain some negative signals for the addressees of the media. In other words they may convey some accusations such as that Iran constantly is making bombs, missiles and warheads or such an idea that the country is preparing itself for a

war against its enemies – America and its western allies – because during a crisis like that with the international society over its nuclear program, the country is getting some missiles. The fact is that Iran had bought some surface-to-air missile system from Russia some years ago and Russians have not yet delivered the systems to Iran and even at the moment (December 08, 2009) still Iranian authorities are complaining about Russians’ delaying in delivering the missiles. (IRNA, November 25, 2009)

6. Tehran says it's getting missiles (December 21, 2008)

Drawing a negative picture of Iran is not restricted to the negative-meaning processes but also there is a case of positive-meaning action in which Iran has been demonstrated as a country who even if does something good, this is not common behavior of it. In the following example, through topicalizing the phrase of *in a rare turn*, and moving the main focus of the sentence to there, also positioning it before the positive-meaning process of sending a letter to the United States’ president, *NYT* shows that what Iran has done is not a common behavior of the country rather that is something so rare and seldom.

7. In rare turn, Iran's leader sends letter to Obama (November 6, 2008)

Iran’s nuclear activities are one of the most important issues, which have an impact on the bilinear relation of the United States and generally westerns countries with Iran. Therefore, it is so natural that the issue draws a lot of attention to itself either in the main stories or in the headlines. The main point of the headlines that cover the atomic file of Iran is that they demonstrate Iran as a country, which wants to make a nuclear bomb or even has already made it.

One of the most significant examples here is the one in which Iran is quoted as if it had confessed that it had made a nuclear bomb or at least had made enough fuel for making a bomb. In this sentence, the phrase of *Iran said* is topicalized and as a result, it contains the most important part of the meaning in the sentence. Because there is a negative point in the rest of the sentence against the sayer who has been said by itself (a confession) it has a powerful documentary effect and causes the sentence to sound so much strong, documented and reliable. However, the main point about the sentence is that Iran has never agreed having done such an action. The country’s authorities repeatedly have declared that nuclear weapon strategy has no place in Iran’s defensive policy. Even in this special news, they have never said that Iran has

made enough fuel for making a bomb, they simply have said they have enriched a distinctive amount of uranium with a low purification, which mostly has civil usage, and they have done it by installing some more centrifuges.

8. Iran said to have nuclear fuel for one weapon (November 19, 2008)

Actually, the accusation against Iran is the result of an analysis of some experts around a report published by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Despite what has been declared in the headline, these experts believe that if Iran wants to make a nuclear bomb, it firstly should deport the IAEA's inspectors from Iran and secondly it should enrich uranium in so higher purification and according to these experts and western countries Iran has not yet done these prerequisites and possibly it will take some more years for Iran to reach to that point.

The question of enrichment is one of the most interesting issues for *NYT* in its news stories relating to Iran's nuclear process. In the next example, *NYT* has topicalized Iran as the agent of a material process to stress simultaneously both the importance of what is done and the importance of doer of the action. There is another technique, which is also done by the media in the preparing the headline and it is make-ambiguous-technique. Enriching uranium can be done for both of peaceful and military usages. However, where there has not been mentioned for which purpose a country is enriching uranium and in the same time there is a lot of propaganda in the air against this country, the more possible interpretation for the nature of enrichment done by that country is that it is enriching for making warheads unless the opposite of it is affirmed, something which has not been done about Iran. Therefore, the general conclusion here is that Iran is enriching uranium to make a bomb.

9. Iran raises its enriching capability (November 26, 2008)

The other major theme in these headlines is related to the point that Iran as its second major role in the processes is the sayer of verbal processes. As it is quoted from van Dijk in the above examples using some verbs like *claim* and *say* causes some sort of distance between the media and the source of the news. As it is clearly shown in the following examples, *NYT* does not confirm the cases that imply Iran's achievements or the cases by means of which a kind of sympathy may form for Iranians.

In the first example there is the news suggesting that the United States is responsible for some activities that may lead to overthrowing the regime in Iran. The topicalized part of the sentence is the clause of *Iran said* which simultaneous with the removing stress of sentence from a negative-meaning action – overthrowing an although enemy but still legal government– done by America, puts emphasis on this idea that all of this is just what Iran says and it needn't be correct necessarily.

10. Iran says U.S. helped finance overthrow plot (January 13, 2009)

The same matter is relevant to Iranian achievements in the missile producing era which is just reported as a claim by Iranians and no more which can mean in the same way that it is what Iran claims it has done but the reality may be something else.

11. Iran says rebels killed 16 soldiers (December 4, 2008)

In this example where some Iranian soldiers has been killed by a rebellion group again Iran as the sayer of the verbal process is topicalized and the subject of the killing the Iranian soldiers is detopicalized. As the result, whole of the story seems to be just a claim by Iran or at least it seems that does not possess so much importance.

Concluding all of the examples it can be said in the first period Iran is represented as a powerful country who can be doer of many activities but at the same time most of what it does are bad-natured doings or if they are good deeds they are so rare. Simultaneously Iran is represented as a country, which its claims are unreliable and overall it cannot be trusted.

- *the United States*

The most important thing about the role of America in these processes is the limitedness of these roles insofar as they just contain three times (table 4-2). The next point about it is the kind of the role that this country picks in these processes which mostly is composed of agent and sayer and in a case, is beneficent of material processes. In the following examples, I will discuss the roles taken by the United States in the data.

In the following example as the sayer of a verbal process, U.S. president is proposing Iran what he calls the change in the United States policies. Suggesting of talk between two counties who have been in the war position all the past thirty years can signal a new beginning and the person

who proposes this beginning can be counted as the hero of peace. The just title that seems NYT wants to give to President Obama.

Table 4-2. The United States' roles in processes, in percentage in the Bush time

Processes →	Material	Mental	Relational	Verbal	Behavioral	Existential
Roles ↓	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agent/Sayer/Carrier	33.33			33.33		
Patient/Receiver						
Beneficiary	33.33					

The other point about the headlines is that the topicalized part of the sentence is not the clause in which Obama's proposal is discussed. Nevertheless, the phrase of *in interview* is topicalized which can mean either that this interview has an important role for the news producers or they want to lessen the importance of the next clause which contains the Obama's proposal. If the second possibility is the more probable one then it seems they (in NYT) are not so much interested in this kind of relationship with Iran rather they want to remove the sentence stress from Obama's words and if the first one is more probable then it can be said that the interview has done a great role in America's political scene at that time.

*12. In interview, Obama talks of **new approach** to Iran (January 11, 2009) [My emphasis]*

In the next example as it is discussed before, the United States is the beneficent of a letter, which is sent by Iran. Although like the previous example a positive-meaning process is not attributed to Americans, but the importance of what Iran has done is decreased through topicalization of *in rare turn* and as a result, the opposite side of America loses its legitimacy and it can be counted as a success for Americans. The same matter is relevant to the next example too. Here the same action that could be regarded as a negative-meaning action for Americans has been issued to suspicion by topicalizing the clause of *Iran says* which as discussed before means that what here has been said is just Iranian's claim, consequently it strengthens the position of the United States as the opposite side of Iran.

13. In rare turn, Iran's leader sends letter to Obama (November 6, 2008)

14. Iran says U.S. helped finance overthrow plot (January 13, 2009)

Generally regarding the role of the United States in this period, it can be said that although the general number of this country's roles are limited – maybe because of signaling the role of Iran as a powerful country who uses its power in a negative way – but still these few roles are either positive ones or if they sound negative, through using some strategies the effect of those negative actions have become colorless.

4-1-2 Obama time

- *Iran*

In the next period, the role of Iran changes in a very meaningful way. Firstly, in comparison with the United States the cases of Iran's roles decreases in number –while it was about 25 for Iran in comparison with 3 for Americans it changes to 16 for Iran and 10 for Americans. Secondly, the kind of role attributed to Iran also differs largely. While in the earlier period Iran's roles mostly contains the doer roles – agent of material processes and sayer of verbal processes– in the next one no kind of special role is more dominant among Iran's different roles (table 4-3). As it is obvious here, there is not a distinctive difference between the percentages of different roles attributed to Iran in this period. Any how the most significant role among these various cases, is the role of doer (bahaver) of behavioral process which basically does not have the dynamic nature of a state in which a material process is being done and as a result does not impress the addressee or convey her/him the impression, power and authority of a material agent. In comparison with the previous period, the dominant role of Iran, which implied the image of a powerful country who has stood against the United States, is perished. Instead, Iran's assigned roles have nearly a neutral nature that means that none of its roles is so much dominant in comparison with the other roles. Something it means that in the new period *NYT* does not look at Iran as such a great threat to America or its interests and contrarily it represents the United States in a more powerful position who can offer peace to Iran while in the proper time it can even punish Iranians.

Table 4-3. Iran's roles in processes, in percentage in the Obama time

Processes →	Material	Mental	Relational	Verbal	Behavioral	Existential
Roles ↓	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agent/Sayer/Carrier	12.5	18.75		12.5	12.5	
Patient/Receiver		6.25	12.5	6.25	6.25	
Beneficiary	12.5					

Despite this fact that representation of Iran in this period draws safer and more moderate image of Iran, still it is looked at as a country with evil behavior that can be a danger for the United States, its citizens and even America's allies like Israel. However, there are some signs of change in the nature of actions done by Iran and it is one of the most important matters in this period since it can be counted as a great change in the attitude of *NYT* to Iran. The other major theme of the new period is that the special presented vision of Iranian opposition groups, which can play an important role to build the general attitude of *NYT* toward Iran.

In the Obama time, Iran still is a danger to the United States although it is not such a great threat as it used to be in the Bush time. Even now, Iran's main problem for the United States and the West in general is the country's atomic file and the activities, which Iran says are peaceful but the West says is not. The reflection of this concern can be seen in some headlines of *NYT* where it points to Iran's nuclear activities and its program for extending the missile system. Here in the first example Iran is topicalized in a headline in which it has been said that Iran has enough capacity for making a nuclear bomb; something similar to what has been said in example number 8. Topicalizing *Iran*, the focus on the importance of issue about this country is intensified and as a result it gains more importance and will be more signified and by the other side using the clause of *report say* we have an expert voice in the headline which makes the statement more reliable for the reader to believe. Despite all of these, Iran has always denied that it is following any kind of program to make a nuclear warhead and IAEA has confirmed that there no diversion from NPT in what Iran is doing (IEAE, 2009). The next instance (16) represents Iran in a condition that it is preparing a response to nuclear talks offer. It means that Iran is thinking that whether it accepts to talk about its nuclear program or not since what has been written in the headline is *nuclear talks offer* not *nuclear offer*, which would mean some offers for nuclear crisis. In 17, again, there is an allusion to missile system of Iran and the main point here is that when there is so much propaganda in the air about nuclear power of Iran, speaking about the missiles helps the attitudes toward Iran to be more pessimistic. Especially when there is mentioned in the headline that the range of this missiles is about 1200 miles that easily can cover all the Middle East. Actually, this has been indicated in the main story that some parts of Iran are about 650 miles away from Tel Aviv, the Israeli capital.

15. *Iran has centrifuge capacity for nuclear arms, report says (June 5, 2009)*

16. *Iran preparing response to nuclear talks offer (April 26, 2009)*

17. *Iran test-fires missile with 1,200-mile range (May 21, 2009)*

One of other major themes about Iran in these headlines relates to the representation of opposition groups. The American government (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, 2009) has always criticized the way that Iran treats its opposition groups and the way that the country deals with the minorities. A reflex of this can be seen in these headlines too. For example the following headlines refers to the case of Roxana Saberi the Iranian-American journalist who spent some months in prison in Iran because Iranian authorities believed that she was spying for the United States. Here, through topicalization of the phrase of *the reporter jailed in Iran* the main focus of the sentence goes for that part that puts an emphasis on this fact that Ms. Saberi is Jailed in Iran and after that the rest of there is the rest of sentence that possesses less importance and attention-attraction and declares that she is on fast. It is another emphasis on the improper treatment of Iranian authorities with Ms. Saberi and because of that, she has gone on a strike against what is going on.

18. *Reporter Jailed in Iran Passes Week on Fast (April 27, 2009)*

Another case shows the government of Ahmadinejad is facing great public dissatisfaction regarding its performance during past 4 years while it was ruling the country. This can be seen through using different kind of strategies to demonstrate the overpopulatedness of the crowd who are for the opponent candidate, Mr. Moussavi. These strategies entail the topicalization of *huge campaign rallies* and using the adjective of *huge*. Of course, it is possible to interpret the sentence in this way that the atmosphere of election and current rallies by both wings have caused to gather so many people and besides these people are for both groups of the ruling wing and the reformist opposition wing. However, the point is that these headlines are not some sentences in an isolated condition and according to what Fairclough calls ‘intertextuality’ there is a relationship between what here in this headline with other headlines and sentences in the other news of at least this medium. It is obvious that what is represented here in this thesis is just an accidental sampling of whole of huge body of news and articles about Iran in these periods and all of these pieces have an interwoven relationship with each other that somehow makes it

impossible to depart some of them and interpret in separated environment. Regarding this special case, for example some other headlines imply the dissatisfaction of Iranian about their government and especially the economic condition of the country like the following one.

19. As Iran gets ready to vote, economy dominates (June 9, 2009)

And even in the main story of this headline it is described that how while Ahmadinejad tries to collect people using different methods and by distributing food and money among them, still a huge number of people are backing his component. All of this cases result in that we interpret the huge rallies that snarl Tehran are the aggregation of reformists' fans.

20. Huge Campaign Rallies Snarl Tehran (June 8, 2009)

The next case that has received attention by NYT in this period is the theme of Iran's misuse of America's flexibility during the country's new approach toward Iran. In the next example it can be seen that after Obama declares his new policy about Iran, Iranians want even more and they seek for America's apology. In this sentence the phrase of after Obama overture is the topic of the sentence and carries the most attention which originally is an emphasis on the United States' soft policy regarding Iran and after that it is followed by a statement that declares Iran wants America to apologize it for what has done to Iran in all of the common history of relationships. The next example is even more disappointing. Here Iranian rejects President Obama's plan for negotiations between two countries to find a solution for the existing problems. Here the phrase of Iran's supreme leader is topicalized that is an emphasis on the subject that this is the most official response of Iranians and the final decision.

21. After Obama Overture, Iran's Leader Seeks U.S. Apology (January 29, 2009)

22. Iran's Supreme Leader Rebuffs Obama Message (March 21, 2009)

Beside all of these, there are some signs that show NYT looks for or sees some traces of change in Iran's manner in the Obama time. The first one of these examples however has partly been treated in a way that NYT had treated example 7 but this time the headline is topicalized by the phrase of *in turnabout*, which semantically is something different from *in a rare turn* which had been used in the example 7. *Turnabout* means that Iran's government has changed its way and has selected a new approach toward America while the second phrase implies that what has been

changed is something temporal and nothing has changed among the countries. There is another point in this example; the jailed journalist Roxana Saberi originally is Iranian-American and she had been living in Tehran for six years before being arrested in 2008. Nevertheless, in this headline she is identified as an American journalist and not an Iranian-American journalist, this can evince more sympathy and in the same time is an emphasis on the danger of Iran for America, its citizens and interests.

23. In turnabout, Iran releases U.S. journalist (May 11, 2009)

The other example is related to a proposal by Iranians for American authorities to negotiate on a bilateral respect. The most important matter about this headline is that in this sentence there is no negative point about Iran. Iran is the topic of the sentence and doer of a positive-meaning process and there is no special strategy within this headline to underestimate Iran's role.

24. Iran offers 'dialogue with respect' with U.S. (February 10, 2009)

- *the United States*

The most important issues regarding the role of America in these processes are the changes in the number of its roles and the change in the nature of its roles. The America's presence in this period is more colorful and powerful than the previous period. In this period, the agent role of the material process is America's dominant role that in comparison with the neutral role of Iran, it resembles more power and authority (table 4-4). In comparison with the Bush time, it can be said *NYT* believes that the danger of Iran has been decreased. While President Obama is going to change the country's policy about Iran, America should be in a more dominant position to impose its will on the Iranian counterpart or one can say that according to those changes in the relationships between two countries it is not necessary to overestimate Iran's danger for Americans.

Table 4-4. The United States' roles in processes, in percentage in the Obama time

Processes →	Material	Mental	Relational	Verbal	Behavioral	Existential
Roles ↓	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agent/Sayer/Carrier	40	10	10	10		
Patient/Receiver	10	10			10	
Beneficiary						

The most important role of the United States in this period is the agent of material processes and it is mostly used to draw a pacifist picture of America in its relations with Iran. However this pacific image of the United States is covered with a theme of authority and toughness to emphasize that if America is so powerful and if it seeks peace, it is not because of its weakness rather it is for the weal and welfare of people in the Middle East and elsewhere.

According to that in the following example, the headline is topicalized using *U.S.* that as mentioned before it carries the most important role of the sentence and is given the most attention. In other words, here America carries the focus of the sentence and by the other side; it is the doer of a positive-meaning process, which is *to join the talks with Iran*. Semantically, by other side one can regard it as the u-turn in the United States policy because the sentence asseverates that America joins the talks, which imply that, these talks have been underway even before it while the United States has not participated in them.

25. U.S. to Join Iran Talks Over Nuclear Program (April 8, 2009)

The next two examples emphasize that notion too, but the second one contains some kinds of intimidation. In the first one, there is a friendly atmosphere and a very positive condition. Here, Obama is the topic of sentence and as a result, he and consequently the United States carry the most attention of the sentence. By the other side just as the previous example Obama is the doer of a positive-meaning process while in the next example in addition to all of what mentioned there is an intimidation for Iranian but still it is used after the words that entail positive atmosphere of talk. In this instance despite the previous examples, America is not the topic of the sentence rather Iran carries the role. However, despite the fact that Iran is in the topic part of the sentence its role is the goal of the sentence and consequently Iran will be the reference of a process in the sentence. It means that Iran is under the effect of the process of the sentence, which is done by the United States and beside that topicalization of Iran in that way causes an emphasis on this fact that Iran is and will be affected by America.

26. On Iran, Obama Plans Talk and Some Toughness (February 3, 2009)

27. Obama Extends Iran an Olive Branch on Videotape (March 20, 2009)

Concluding the analysis of the headlines using the transitivity and SFG, we can say that in the first period *NYT*'s approach to Iran is concentrated on showing Iran as a powerful country whose actions does not entail positive consequences for Americans or their interests and the medium does this through frequent mentioning the country's name and deed and through the roles that it gives to Iran. Next to that using the similar strategy, *NYT* represents Iran as unreliable country whose promises cannot be so believable. In the same period, the roles attributed to America are mostly active role although they are too restricted quantitatively that it seems it helps the newspaper to construct such a threatening image of Iran. In the next period, *NYT* represents a more moderate image of Iran. It seems that it is the result of two reasons; firstly it want to signalize the role of opposite country, the United States, in the new season of talks to solve the problems and secondly to moderate the existing subjectivity of Iran and to draw a real image of it during these negotiations. However, despite all of these *NYT* criticize the government of Iran for its manner in the human rights question and believes that even now Iran is a danger to America's interests. The image of the United States is the holy painting of peace angel who may sometimes punish Iran for its bad deeds.

4-2 Namings

4-2-1 Bush Time

- *Iran*

Overall, most of the cases of Iranians, identifications in this period are formal and most of the authorities are named by their own formal official names. This shows a general sort of the formality to convey the seriousness and induce the fact that Iran is a powerful country, which can be so hazardous to the United States. Of course just alluding to this matter that Iran is so powerful cannot be inferred, as it is dangerous too. But if an addressee thinks about the total underway processes s/he can deduces that presenting Iran as a powerful one and in the same time familiarizing it as a country which stands against the United States and is full of an anti-American atmosphere can result in that conclusion. This familiarization can take place through the other elements of analyzing the stories, for example through over-completeness process and quoting different voices.

One of the most evident facts about the naming structure of these news stories is that there is a clear difference between the number of using these identifications for Iranian or Americans in these two periods of before and after Mr. Obama comes to the office. In the period before January 20, most of the namings are dedicated to Iranians. This contains a various range of titles of authorities and a variety of designation the country's name.

28. *Policy of engagement with **Iran** (January 11, 2009) [My emphasis]*

29. *A nuclear program that **Tehran** describes as peaceful (January 11, 2009) [My emphasis]*

30. ***Iran's** refusal to suspend the uranium (November 10, 2008) [My emphasis]*

31. *Iran's government (January 17, 2009)*

32. *Iranian government (January 19, 2009)*

33. *President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (January 11, 2009)*

34. ***Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**, the supreme religious leader (January 11, 2009) [My emphasis]*

35. *Iran's supreme religious leader, **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** (September 19, 2008) [My emphasis]*

This list can be continued by revealing the names of some ministers, members of parliament, police senior officers, intelligence authorities and chiefs of governmental organization. All the names are in their complete form and titles are usually mentioned. If the titles are dropped instead honorifics are added.

36. ***President** Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (December 4, 2008) [My emphasis]*

37. *Mr. Ahmadinejad (November 26, 2008)*

Multiplicity of Iranians naming in different ways is completely comprehensive. It can offer a picture of Iran in a way that it is powerful. Mentioning the names of authorities or the name of state causes the addressees to bear the names in mind and it gives a sort of importance to the

subject. In other words as van Dijk believes and classifies different types and ways of manipulation, putting emphasis on others' negative points can be regarded as a "strategy [that] can be applied to structures of many discourse levels in the usual way" (2006a, p.373). I do not intend to conclude in this stage that here is a case of manipulation.

The main point is not that media manipulate readers or not rather, it is that it can be used to analyze the stories. Sometimes there are some discursive processes that shape or change ideas and beliefs while they cannot be regarded as the manipulation because there are not in the line of one's interest and benefits. "This means that manipulation needs to be distinguished from these other forms of mind management, as we have done earlier in social terms, that is, in terms of the context of discourse. In order to be able to distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate mind control" (Van Dijk, 2006c). Nonetheless, this special strategy used in manipulation can be useful in describing the mechanism, which ends in forming a particular idea in the readers' (addressees') minds. Whether it is a case on manipulation or not, the same process that occurs in manipulation is relevant to what is going on, when there are many cases of mentioning the name of the entity.

Most of the cases of naming in the first period are devoted to Iran. This contains the names of the authorities or the places. All of them are in their formal and complete form. This repetition of names causes to be signalized those pieces of information, which are about Iran and calls more attention to it just like when a special part of news is highlighted by means of a large or bold font. This repetition and multiplicity of *Iran* naming brings about the authority and importance, which are visualized as negative using the other strategies and processes among them voicing and over-completeness. Actually, in this time, Iran is thought of as a danger to The United States and it potentially can risk the America's interest. It is not a mere defeated enemy rather it's capable of doing some operation which can harm the Americans and America's interests and this by itself gives the United States' administration a right of defending the country and civilians.

Not all cases of naming in this period are restricted to Iran and The United States but also there are the names of some other countries mostly in Middle East.

38. ... against **Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Israel** ... (November 12, 2008) [My emphasis]

39. *Some countries suspected **Syria** was building a nuclear reactor. (November 21, 2008) [My emphasis]*

And in some other cases some countries are identified as ‘the West’

40. *...**the West** fears [Iran] is intended to produce weapons. (November 26, 2008) [My emphasis]*

41. *The United States and some other **western countries** have accused Iran of conducting clandestine weapon program. (November 21, 2008) [My emphasis]*

42. *...**Western nations** suspect that Iran is seeking a nuclear weapon... (November 12, 2008) [My emphasis]*

Except for the Syria, all of these namings are in their formal and usual manner and they are located in contexts in which they are facing a threat from Iran. In 38, it is implied that a new Iranian missile can reach all of these neighbor countries. Almost in all of the cases that ‘West’ has been used there is a confrontation between Iran and the rest of world either in the form of U.N. or its departments like Security Council or in the form of the United States and its allies. In the case of Syria, although no relationship between Syrians and Iranian has been mentioned in the news story, but like Iranians, they are suspected to carry on a clandestine nuclear program and because of that, they are against other countries and especially Israel. Actually, these cases of identification reinforce the cause of showing Iran and countries like it to be a potential danger to the United States and generally to west.

- *the United States*

In the period before Obama come to the office, the total number of identifications and namings related to America, Americans and organization related to the United States are fewer in comparison with Iran. The same matter is relevant to the naming structure of Americans in this period. Most of the time, names are very official and in their complete form and titles are cited just like what has been done to Iranian namings.

43. *President elect Barack Obama (January 13, 2009)*

44. *President Bush (January 13, 2009)*

45. *Senator Barack Obama (November 10, 2008)*

46. *Mr. Obama (January 11, 2009)*

This de-emphasizing of The United States naming in comparison with Iran naming is in the same direction with the emphasizing Iran as troublesome country and identifying it as responsible for many of the United States' problems and its enemy. Actually the maximum space and times of naming have been devoted to Iranians and logically the least is remained for the Americans. This de-emphasizing cannot be considered as a case of negative representation because no negative affair is contributed to the United States. In this case, rather this matter has been used to signalize the role of Iran. All the cases of Iran naming are very formal and this is used to sharpen the aspect of power of Iranians while the same thing is admissible to the United States with the little difference. Usually if somebody shows one's country, as a powerful country one's action is interpreted as natural and the common unmarked case while showing an enemy country as a powerful one sounds to be the marked case. It can be said that it is used as a tactic to emphasize the danger of the enemy and it necessitates an urge to stand against and demolish it.

4-2-2 Obama Time

- Iran

In the period, after Obama comes to the office still Iranian namings are so formal and official. The names are mentioned in their complete forms. However, in comparison with the previous period the numbers of naming overtly decrease.

47. ... **President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** argued on America... (January 29, 2009)

48. ... **Mr. Ahmadinejad** said... (January 29, 2009) [My emphasis]

49. **President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** of Iran... (February 10, 2009) [My emphasis]

50. **Ayatollah Khamenei** (March 21, 2009)

51. **President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** of Iran (April 8, 2009) [My emphasis]

52. **Iran** is required under three United Nations Security council resolutions ... (June 5, 2009) [My emphasis]

53. ... urged him to denounce **Iran**. (May 14, 2009) [My emphasis]

This scale-down of Iran naming can be understood as a signal to change the condition for America to be in higher position and to make the role of Iran more inconspicuous than the previous period. There is a point about it; Danuta Reah in her book points to the importance of naming and mentions that “the importance of naming can be seen in the way that oppressed or disadvantaged groups within a society try to take control of the naming strategies that that society takes towards them”(1998, p.61). On the other way Richardson believes that, the way that people are named can be an indication of the way they are viewed (2007, p.49). Fowler, Kress and Trew (1979) believe that “the different possibilities [of naming] signify different assessments by the speaker/writer of his or her relationship with the person referred to or spoken to, and of the formality or intimacy of the situation” (p. 200). In all of these cases, the main emphasis is on the name choosing among different possibilities and not on the total number of namings devoted to an item. Whiles the number of the times that the name of an item is mentioned can be a reason for the fact that much space is devoted to it to express itself or at least to have more opportunities than others to play or act and to be the subject of texts in which it does a role. In a simple language, it shows the importance of item. Whenever the total number of the naming choices increases then the role of that subject to which the names belongs, becomes more prominent and this prominence can reflect either a positive role or a negative role of the subject¹. About Iran, it is the case. In the previous period, the role of Iran had been embossed through more number of namings while regarding the other method of analysis the overall process is a negative-meaning one, whilst in the next period it is not so prominent although it does not seem positive yet. Less numbers of Iran namings in this period shows that Iran’s importance (danger) is decreased, although potentially it still is a danger to the United States but its position does not look like the Bush time.

- *the United States*

America's naming study in the Obama time demonstrates an increase in the total number of choices attributed to it. Most of the time, these choices are formal and official.

54. **President Obama** struck a conciliatory tone ... (January 29, 2009) [My emphasis]

¹ This matter will be discussed in discussion and conclusion chapter.

55. ...**Mr. Obama's** gesture... (January 29, 2009)
56. ... **Mr. Obama** is talking ... (February 10, 2009) [My emphasis]
57. ... Vice president Joseph R. Biden Jr.... (February 10, 2009)
58. ...President George Bush... (March 21, 2009)
59. ... **the administration** could make the most progress... (March 21, 2009) [My emphasis]
60. ... Washington... (March 20, 2009)
61. ...President George W. Bush... (March 20, 2009)
62. ... **The United States** wanted Iran ... (March 20, 2009) [My emphasis]
63. ...secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton ... (January 29, 2009)

This increase in the number of the naming choices in this period helps The United States to have a more clear and signalized position in U.S.-Iran binary. By numerous repetitions of America's name choices, this process of frequent namings sets up a sense of celebration parallel to the growing importance of America resulting from reappearances in the texts and stories. On the other side, as a same story, de-emphasizing Iran through lessening the number of name choosing related to it, the America's position will become more tenacious

4-3 Lexical choices

4-3-1 Bush time

Lexical choices in Bush time, clearly illustrates the relations between Iran and The United States in the period before Obama comes to the office. If one decides to categorize the various cases of lexical choices of this period probably, s/he realizes five major classifications as follows:

1. The Iranian-Israeli relations
2. Westerns' doubt and skepticism about Iran's nuclear activities
3. Iran's untrustworthy expressions and claims and unreliable behaviors
4. Iran's wry response to the world

5. Authenticating Iranian opposition groups and government's adversaries

- *The Iranian-Israeli relations*

Israel is the strategic ally of the United States and the United States has always been professed to guarantee its interests, so the relation between Iran and Israel is very important for the United States too. Lexical choices used here try to show that there is a common anti-Israeli voice among Iranian authorities and by the other side to show that this adverseness is not just restricted to Zionists according to what Iran claims but it is relevant to all Jewish sects.

In 64 it's clear that most of the authorities in Islamic republic are against one of Ahmadinejad's allies, who despite the official Iran's approach to Israeli government, had claimed for friendship with Israeli people and they want Ahmadinejad to dismiss him. These people include 'several senior clerics' of Islamic republic, the country in which clerics have the most important governmental posts and also 200 members of Parliament which has 290 members. In the words, both of the representatives of government and people are among these authorities. Reading the rest of the news, many other authorities—among them the supreme leader— can be added to this list. This fact by itself can show how much Iranians are against the Jewish government and this is not restricted to one group of them. The second point here is related to the used verb of *urged* which could be replaced with a range of other verbs like demand, ask and want while the verb *urged* is used and it can serve as an intensifier for making the final judgment about general will of Iranians and to show their adverseness to Israeli people.

In number 65, there is another point and it is the use of the phrase of *Jewish groups*. Frequently Iran has announced that it has no problem with the Jews but its major conflict is with Zionist Israelis who have occupied the Palestinian lands. Using the phrase 'Jewish groups' shows that different groups of Jews are against Ahmadinejad and Islamic republic policy. This animosity contains other points; in this piece of news the fact that Mashai has declared there is a friendship between Iranians and Israeli people, has aggravated Iranian authorities and according to the article Ahmadinejad has backed Mashai, who had supported the friendship with Israelis, so, logically the Jewish groups should not have stood against him. It can refer to Ahmadinejad's previous position regarding the existence of Israel state and Holocaust that causes public Jewish anger against him. In the other words by using this lexical choice, *NYT* shows that even when

because of political necessities, one of the Iranian authorities becomes closer to the Jews, it is not her/his real intention. It reminds the addressee that the Jew do not forget that generally Iranian authorities are their determined enemies.

64) *Several senior clerics and some 200 members of Parliament had **urged** the President to dismiss Mr. Mashai for making the remarks. (September 19, 2008) [My emphasis]*

65) ***Jewish groups** have said that they will hold a rally against him. (September 19, 2008) [My emphasis]*

The next matter, which can be regarded as an important point, is the mentioned cases of Iran's danger for Israel that makes up a high frequency all over the data. The interesting point about these cases is that most of the time Israelis are not alone in this menace and a verity of other countries are included in this list among them western countries and countries in the Persian Gulf and Middle East region.

66 -*Its claimed range would enable it to strike targets in **Israel or the Persian Gulf region**. (November 21, 2008) [My emphasis]*

67-... *it would be used against Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Israel— anyone in the region the Iranians took a dislike to. (November 21, 2008)*

68-*Israeli officials have long lobbied to prevent Russia from selling the system to Iran. (December 21, 2008)*

- *Western doubt and skepticism about Iran's nuclear activities*

The other major theme, which is frequently repeated in the Bush period, is Iran's nuclear crisis. The general idea of this part is that Iran is preparing a clandestine nuclear program whose purpose is to make atomic warheads whiles this country always denies it. Most of the times, the words which are chosen contain a negative connotation about Iran's claim and sometimes avoid to mention a special word or lexicon serves the same purpose.

One of the most frequent expressions in this connection is a sentence that denotes that west believes that Iran is preparing nuclear weapons but Iran says it is not. Here the kinds of the verbs,

which are used, are interesting. The kind of the verbs attributed to the western countries convenience more ideas of truthfulness than what the verbal-process verbs do, which are attributed to Iranian. In example number 6, the westerns suspect while Iranians just say that their program is peaceful and this does not sounds so believable. The same matter can be seen about 7 and 8 where while westerns fear and believe that Iran is making nuclear weapons Iranians deny such a military program and say they are working in the frame of a peaceful program.

*69-While Western nations 'suspect' that Iran is seeking a nuclear weapon, Iran **says** it is enriching uranium solely for civilian purposes. (November 12, 2008) [My emphasis]*

*70 -... it [Iran] **says** is for energy production but the West 'fears' is intended to produce weapons (November 26, 2008) [My emphasis]*

71 -... Tehran describes as peaceful, but ... the West 'believes' is not (January 11, 2008) [My emphasis]

In all of these cases, there is another point. Iran nuclear file is not only related to Americans and does not only makes them worry about the future of the global peace but it involves other countries like the westerns and it shows that Iran stands not only against the United States but also against the rest of world and for that it deserve to be punished. There are other cases in which, Iran stands against the international community for its suspected nuclear program.

*72-...**growing international concern** over Iran's nuclear program ... (November 26, 2008) [My emphasis]*

Here Iran is opposing not only the United States or westerns countries but also against the international community who is worry about Iran's nuclear program.

The other cases related to Iran's nuclear file include accusing Iran by the other countries especially The United States for the sake of its nuclear activities in various ways.

*73 -...**suspected** work to develop nuclear 'weapons' ... (November 21, 2008) [My emphasis]*

Here the most important point is that while Iran is suspected for its ambiguous nuclear activities, at the same time there is a presupposition that suggests Iran is making nuclear weapon. In other words, there is a difference between the sentence in which Iran's nuclear work is suspected with the other sentence like 73 in which has presupposed that Iran is making bombs and because of that, international community suspects it.

*74-machines that spin **incredibly fast** to enrich the element into nuclear fuel (November 26, 2008) [My emphasis]*

Uranium the vital element of every nuclear activity can be both used in making nuclear reactors fuel and nuclear bombs. The low-purified uranium which has peaceful usages can be enriched in centrifuges to reach a high purity to be used in making bombs. According to that when the enrichment is in the low levels it is used as the fuel for reactors but when it reaches to high levels of purification it can be used as the major component of a nuclear bomb the just thing that the West is so worry about. When the machines spin they can enrich uranium for the fuel purpose but when they spin too fast, *incredibly fast* they can cause the fuel to become the basic element of a bomb. The main theme here again is to show that Iran can be counted as a danger to other countries since it is following a military nuclear program and helps other countries to gain such a technology and accidentally one of these countries is a neighbor to Israel and has not experienced a good and friendly relationship with it. The story is that Israelis bombed a desert region in Syria and claimed that Syria was to build a nuclear reactor at that site. After that, the AIEA inspectors visit the site and according to *NYT*, they found *ambiguous traces of uranium*. The point is that this piece of news comes at the end of a news story related to the Iran and since the traces of the uranium, which has been found in Syria, is ambiguous too – just like Iran's nuclear activities. Therefore, according to the close relations between Syria and Iran and because of their common enemy, Israel, it can be concluded that this was Iran who helped Syrians to gain uranium and built a reactor.

75-ambiguous traces of uranium (November 21, 2008)

Describing the danger of Iran's nuclear program is not the only device of demonstrating Iran's activities. In 76 writer's avoidance to mention the kind of nuclear knowledge that Iran claims for can lead to different reading of the meaning. Where the Bush administration refuses to do a

military action against Iran's nuclear facilities Ahmadinejad insists on *seeking access to nuclear technology's know-how* ; but what kind of technology? Why there should be some military suggestions against Iran's nuclear facilities, which Bush refuses them? The fact that *NYT* does not mention that Iran is seeking a peaceful atomic technology makes the addressee to suspect that something is wrong with Iran. The structure of previous sentence intensifies it and provides her/him with the general idea that what Iran is seeking is not new peaceful resources of energy.

76 -*The Bush administration has consistently refused to rule out military action against Iran's nuclear facilities. But President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad insisted on Wednesday that Iran would continue to seek access to **nuclear technology's know-how**.* [My emphasis]

- *Iran's untrustworthy expressions and claims and unreliable behaviors*

There are many cases of the word choices, which directly can result in a conclusion like this :Iran is not a country which west can rely on or give a chance to. What Iranian say is just their claims and what they show is just their television broadcasting. The same process is true about their achievements and accomplishments; where all of them are counted as a matter of Iran's posit and so these achievements and accomplishments cannot be taken as a factual events and nobody need believe them.

most of the examples in this part are devoted to underestimating Iranian achievements and to the generalizing some conclusions, which utter that all of these successes are propagandized by Iranian television to represent Iran as a wealthy and powerful country, whether worldwide or inside its border, to give its people some insurances about the security of the country and to threaten the others that it is ready to stand against the foreign enemies and their attacks. In 77, where Iran successfully has tested some new missiles, *NYT* reports this as a piece of news which is attributed to a state-run television not an international impartial agency. By the other way this sentence begins with a phrase in which Iran is believed to "say" something which is an overstatement about its missile power. So in this piece of news Iran's untrustworthiness and its unreliability have been duplicated by the effect of these two strategies.

The same matter can be relevant to 78 since in the same news the verb of *claimed* has been used to describe the range which the missile can reach. Like the previous case, here the missile range

is something which Iranians say, not what that possibly is the real range. Therefore, one can conclude that Iran is exaggerating about its power to terrify other countries in the region and to show itself as powerful country for internal use; the most common characteristic that any unpopular weak power may have.

77 -Iran **said** Wednesday that it successfully test fired a new generation of long-range surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 1,200 miles, state-run television reported. (November 21, 2008) [My emphasis]

78 -Its **claimed range** would enable it to strike targets in Israel or the Persian Gulf region. (November 21, 2008) [My emphasis]

In the next one using this strategy, *NYT* has shown another unreliable image of Iran. In 79 it can be inferred that the phrase of *in what that seems to be the display of a missile* can result in such a conclusion that the addressee can't be sure whether it is a ballistic missile or it is probably just Iranians' exaggeration about their facilities. The news story is continued using a clause that implies Iran says it has tested a rocket. Again, it is only a claim that Iranians say and it is not said by an impartial part or someone in outside the Iranian borders and finally all of these have been reported by an Iranian TV which actually is a state-run one and this last fact can intensify such a conclusion that Iranians are unreliable. In 80, this unreliability has attributed to one of Islamic Republic authorities for accusing the United States Senate for supporting Iranian government overthrowing plan. It means that what Iranians say about foreign interferences in the countries affairs just seems like a claim and it may rooted in their inability to manage their internal problems.

79 -In what **appeared** to be a display of its ballistic capability, Iran also 'said' Wednesday that it had test-fired a rocket, called "Kavosh 2," that was expected to transmit environmental data, **state-run television reported**. (November 26, 2008) [My emphasis]

80 -...he [Alireza Jamshidi, a judiciary spokesperson] **said** the Senate [of The United States] had approved for overthrowing Iran's government. (January 17, 2009) [My emphasis]

The next selected piece of news represents a different aspect of state, which relates to Iran's enemies and foreign approaches toward them. In fall of 2008, 16 Iranian police officers and soldiers were abducted by a rebel Sunni group called Jundullah in Southwestern Iran. However, the structure of this piece of news treats the fact as if it is just a claim of Iranians and it may be true or not. By the other way it can be said that general structure of this sentence tries to disculpate Jundullah of the accusation of abduction Iranian soldier by imposing a doubt in the reliability of the news. Jundullah is Iran's enemy and invalidating Iranian's claim about this rebel group actually can raise some questions about Iranian trustworthiness. The other major theme in this sentence is authenticating one of Iranian opposition groups which I am going to argue in the next part.

81 -*Sunni rebels who were believed to have abducted 16 soldiers (December 4, 2008)*

[My emphasis]

- *Authenticating Iranian opposition groups and government's adversaries*

The next major theme of lexical choices within the selected data indirectly is related to the case of Iran. In the previous ones NYT had treated Iran and subjects related to it directly but here, using the strategy of supporting government adversaries and representing them validly augments their position, justifies them to resemble more rightful than Iranian government, represents the government as an evil that treat them barbarously, and finally invalidates the government.

The first case as indicated above has been mentioned in 81, where the opposite military group of Jundullah in Southeastern Iran has been named as *Sunni rebels*. This can be investigated because of using the lexicon of *Sunni* in the sentence, which can stand against the notion of Shiite essence of government in Iran. According to Iran's constitution, Shiite religion is the official religion of the country and the government in which president must be a Shiite person, is responsible for preservation and watching it. Using the word of *Sunni* may bring this into the mind that the main reason that causes this group to fight against Iran's government is a religious reason and consequently it results in resembling Iran's government as a government that restricts religious freedom and human right².

²The constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Article 57 :The official religion of Iran is Islam and the Twelver Ja'fari school [in usual al-Din and fiqh], and this principle will remain eternally immutable ...

The next one actually is a proof for what was said about 81. The differences in lexical choices by an Iranian authority and by *NYT* in a same instance can show such a different ideologies and approaches toward the instance by two sides. While the Iranian authority calls soldiers with the label of *loved ones*, *NYT* calls them simply *soldiers* and while their death is described as *martyrdom* by Iranians, *NYT* writes, *they have been killed*. Using the words such as martyrdom with the ideological implication helps Iran to represent itself more rightful and consequently to be in higher position in comparison with the rebels. However, *NYT* divests Iran to use this possibility and reports the news as if the country is on a war with an enemy that has as much legitimacy as Iran has.

82 -A :*how many soldiers were killed*

B :*all of our loved ones have been martyred by Jundullah terrorists (December 4, 2008) [My emphasis]*

The other occurrences related to the Iranian opposition group, refers to circumstances in which Iranian government stands against internal groups that it thinks that may be a danger to its permanence. These groups consist of different range of people with different occupations

83 -*He said the ring had also picked Iranians from various professions, including fashion designers, doctors, athletes, clerics, artists and professors, and invited them to go to the United States "in groups of 10 or 15." (January 19, 2009)*

One may infer that the general idea of this statement is that the ring has programmed to bring these people to The United States and these people do not know anything about it, but the next sentence proves that intelligence ministry was convinced that many of the people who went to the United States were involved.

84 -*He added that the intelligence ministry was not convinced that all those who went to the United States were involved. (January 19, 2009)*

In 85 four Iranians are accused of overthrowing the government by Iranian authorities. The general style of the sentence is similar to what discussed as Iran's untrustworthy. Here the phrase of *four Iranians* is topicalized to stress its importance against the importance of Iranian

government and also as just mentioned using the verb of *accuse* places these people in a more rightful position than Iranian government.

85 -***Four Iranians** accused of trying to overthrow the government with the backing of the United States have been convicted and sentenced to prison. (December 4, 2008)*
[My emphasis]

In the next case, NYT has used the verb of crackdown to describe the reflex of Islamic Republic to the opposition's activities in some months before the Presidential elections in June 2009. Actually, it is the last part of the story, where it reports that Iran Judiciary has sentenced some Iranians to prison under the accusation of trying to overthrow the Islamic regime with the aid and support of the United States. At the end of the report, the reporter indirectly ridicules Iran's position and the accusation it has attributed to the United States and Iranians too. It concludes that all of these actions are some kind of pressure on the activists before the elections and their aim is to make the opposition be silent. As the result here, this people as the opposition of the government gain a rightful position against Iran and this brings about illegitimacy of Iranian government.

86 -*The arrests appeared to be part of a **crackdown** on activists and opposition figures ahead of the Presidential elections in June. (January 19, 2009)* [My emphasis]

- *Iran's wry response to the world*

Almost in all of news pieces related to Iran's nuclear crisis, it's a common theme to assign Iran a sort of heedlessness to the international request and there are some cases in which one can infer it from the chosen lexicon. In 87, NYT has chosen *brush off* to describe Iran's response to the international community, which demands Iran to suspend uranium enrichment. Oxford English Dictionary defines *brush off* in this way :“rude or unfriendly behaviour that shows that a person is not interested in sb.” (Hornby, 2004, p. 151). This kind of response shows that Iran is not so interested in what international community demands. Once more this action illegitimizes Iran and make its position in international society be unsustainable.

87 -... head of the Atomic Organization, **brushed off** the demands that Iran suspend enriching uranium (November 26, 2008) [My emphasis]

4-3-2 Obama time

The similar categorization of lexicon choices in the period after Barack Obama's adjuration can result in below cases.

1. Obstacles caused by Iran in mutual relationships with The United States
2. Soft positions of The United States
3. Two countries appetite for change
4. America's higher position
5. Iran's nuclear ambition and international fear about Iran's activities
6. Iran's heedlessness to international demand about its nuclear program
7. Iran's untrustworthy expressions and claims and unreliable behaviors
8. Authenticating Iranian opposition groups and government's adversaries
9. The Iranian-Israeli relations

As one can infer here the number of categorizations in this period is higher than the previous one and it can show more complication in this relationship although the frequency of instances for each categorization has decreased. Besides that, there are new areas of relationships between Iran and the United States, which can be the result of *change policy* of President Obama.

- *Obstacles caused by Iran in mutual relationships with the United States*

Despite the changes occurred in the relationship between Iran and The United States, still *NYT* is conservative about these changes and represents Iran as a unreliable country that may misuse the United States overture and tries to gain more points. The exact example of this consideration can be seen in 88 where a day after President Obama's interview with Al Arabia TV and his *conciliatory tone toward Iran* Ahmadinejad of Iran demands the United States apology to Iran. The interesting point is that he *urges* The United States to do that and his request is not restricted to a demand. In the next instance, he has been described as a *fiery* person. This can be inferred as an emphasis on the previous point that no deal is possible with Iranians since its leader is a psychopath and there is no guarantee that he remains faithful to the forthcoming agreements and beside that it is not clear whether he has necessary power to manage the relationship with the United States or not.

88 -Mahmoud Ahmadinejad urged America on Wednesday to apologize for its actions toward his country over the past 60 years. (January 29, 2009) [My emphasis]

89 -... *whether the **fiery Iranian President** will overcome his mismanagement of the country's economy to survive the June 12 elections there. (February 10, 2009) [My emphasis]*

In 90, there is a different question and that is the problems, which cause the current situation between Iran and the United States. Here the entire problem between countries is resulted from what Iran has done in past and there is no sign of America's accusation. In the other words, Iran is responsible for all of problems exist between two countries and as it is indicated through different strategies by the rest of data, Iran is responsible for many other problems for many other countries all over the world. If it is the case, the United States should be so conservative in its treatment with this regime since for all of these reasons Islamic republic is not that regime on which the United States can rely.

90 -*The two countries have been locked in disputes with Washington over Iran's nuclear ambitions and its support for militant Islamic groups. (March 20, 2009)*

- *Soft position of The United States*

The only theme, which can complete the previous categorization, is to mention some cases of alternation in The United States' foreign policy as a proof for President Obama's promised change in the country's approach toward Iran. It can be mentioned again that *NYT* elaborates conservatively about the characteristics of the relations between the United States and Iran in the later period. At the same time, it tries to propagandize America's new policy; as a result, it represents an untrustworthy image of Iran that is discussed above and further tries to draw a conciliatory image of America.

As a clear example in 91 the adverb of *curiously* has been used to describe the verbal part of the sentence in which President Obama has not repeated the usual cautions that he used to, during his campaign – like what Bush administration always insisted on. It means that something has changed about the country. When, what has been natural to The United States foreign policy for a long time now has been transformed to a situation in which something unusual is happening. The same story is relevant to 92, where President Obama's video message for Iranians is counted as *unprecedented videotaped appeal to Iran*. In 93, there is another emphasis on the paucity of

this kind of relationships between the United States and Iran by using the adjective of *unusual* for describing that message.

91-But *curiously*, he did not repeat the warning he made repeatedly during the campaign (February 10, 2009) [My emphasis]

92 -President Obama issued an unprecedented videotaped appeal to Iran on Friday, offering a “new beginning” of diplomatic engagement. (March 20, 2009)

93-President Obama concluded the *unusual* message by saying, “Thank you, and Eid-eh Shoma Mobarak.”(March 20, 2009) [My emphasis]

- *Two countries appetite for change*

The soft position of the United States administration in relation to Iran, beside the President Obama’s program to change, have resulted in some practical transformations in the United States policy toward Iran. In return, Iran signals a green light to America, which is reflected in *NYT*’s news stories as follows. As the first case, 91 can be recalled for using *curiously* to describe Obama’s position toward Iranian government. As long as that aspect of the word which stands for a soft policy of the United States regarding the Islamic Republic, another characteristic of it, is related to this fact that anyhow this policy toward Iran is something different from the previous policy of the United States foreign affair policymakers. As a result, example 91 can be classified in this categorization too.

Using the clause of *to stress the seriousness of Mr. Obama’s overture*, *NYT* emphasizes President Obama’s determination to promote the country’s relationship with Iran in example 94 and in the next instance, there is an interesting word that can more or less represent the country’s changed policy. Despite the fact that in the previous period as exemplified in 69, 70, 71, 73, 75, etc, *NYT* has called Iran’s nuclear activities as some tricks to make a bomb and connotatively has described them as some aggressive behaviors, in the next example *NYT* uses *nuclear program* expression about Iran’s nuclear activities and even reflects America’s eagerness to directly negotiate with Iran about it. In comparison with the United States previous policy, which had assigned the precondition of suspending uranium enrichment and had avoided to direct participation in the negotiations with Iran, it can be regarded as a basic change.

94 -*To stress the seriousness of Mr. Obama's overture, the White House distributed the videotape to broadcasters with Persian-language subtitles. (March 20, 2009) [My emphasis]*

95 -*...the United States would start participating regularly with other major powers in negotiations with Iran over its **nuclear program**. (April 8, 2009) [My emphasis]*

The next part of this positive signaling is Iran. In 96, one instance of that positive movement toward opening a new chapter of relation with the United States can be seen. Although as quoted in 88, Iranians still are complaining about the United States' foreign policy and want that country to apologize to them for what had done to them in past sixty years, but still the Ahmadinejad's answer to President Obama's change policy has been portrayed using the lexicon of *unusual*. Of course, it can be regarded as a sign for changing policies inside Islamic regime of Iran, which is very different with the common tone that Iranian leaders used to address the United States administration.

96 -*And it coincided with an **unusual** expression of conciliation toward the United States by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran. (April 8, 2009) [My emphasis]*

Nevertheless, the next example is the most interesting instance of a will to change the past policy by the Iranian side, where Ahmadinejad *urges* the judiciary system to provide an Iranian-American journalist with a *fair appeal* after she had been sentenced to 8 years in prison. The important point here is that according to the Iran's constitution the Judiciary power is completely independent and free from the Executive power³, which has the president at the top. So legally, it is not possible for the president to urge the Judiciary to make a decision unless the president as the second most authoritative person of the country uses his credit and makes a request of somebody in the Judiciary. Here the used verb of the sentence shows the Iranian attempt to prevent making a decision that probably can be harmful to the newborn relationship with the United States.

³ The constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Article 57 :The powers of government in the Islamic Republic are vested in the legislature, the judiciary, and the executive powers, functioning under the supervision of the absolute wilayat al-'amr and the leadership of the Ummah, in accordance with the forthcoming articles of this Constitution. These powers are independent of each other.

97-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has urged the prosecutor to ensure Ms. Saberi will get a fair appeal. (April 8, 2009)

- *America's higher position*

Despite all of these cases of conciliation made by the two sides, there are signs of the original American policy toward Iran in the continuum of Bush's policy of looking down at Iran. In the next example, there is a quotation from President Obama, which contains two distinct parts. In the first one, he states a positive expression about Iran's nuclear file and recognizes its right to have peaceful nuclear facilities. At the same time in the second part, he warns Iran to leave some of its activities like supporting terrorist groups in the Middle East and trying to gain nuclear bomb (the same article) so that it can reach its position in the international society. The first expression is accompanied with the verb *say* which does not remind the addressee of so emphasis but second expression is used with the verb of *insist* that unlike the first one connotes the sense of emphasis. It can be concluded here that *NYT*'s most emphasis is given to that part of President Obama's expression that contains a negative message to Iranians. As an appending to previous categorization, this category can be regarded as a warning to Iran and reminding it that although there are possibly some circumstances of positive signals from the United States to Iran but still Iran will face previous policies in the case of refusing to cooperate with international community in the eras of its nuclear activities.

*98-He **said** the United States wanted Iran to take its "rightful place in the community of nations" but insisted that Tehran would have to do its part to achieve 'reconciliation'. (March 20, 2009) [My emphasis]*

- *Iran's nuclear ambition and international fear about Iran's activities*

Just like the previous period, one of the main themes related to Iran is theme of the danger of a nuclear Iran. Iran's nuclear activities and its efforts in the atomic era are described as the *nuclear ambition* and the United States and the West are suspicious of Iran's activities. Nevertheless, the main difference here is about the frequency of such accusations. Whereas in the previous period, there were about eight cases of direct pointing to the theme, in the next period it decreases to only three instances.

Example number 99 is a sentence with a familiar content that Iran is pushing out a military atomic program while it describes it as a peaceful one. The main idea is induced by thematization of *enriching uranium* which is normally known as the main part of making a bomb, using the verb *say* for describing Iran's position as a weak emphasis on a questionable claim and by verification the number of the countries that are suspicious of Iran atomic program.

*99 -Since then, Iran has continued **enriching uranium**, which it 'says' is intended for nuclear energy but which is regarded by the 'The United States and its allies' as part of a clandestine nuclear weapons program.(April 8, 2009) [My emphasis]*

In the next two instances, Iran's atomic program is described as an *ambition* that according to Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary is defined to have two meanings :“ 1[C] something that you want to do or to achieve very much ... 2[U] the desire or determination to be successful, rich, powerful, etc” (Hornby, 2004, p.36). The clear fact is that intended meaning by using this word is not a positive one and the word does not connote that. Other than, in the opposite way by connecting this determined will for acquiring nuclear technology to the suspicion of international community about the real nature of Iran's nuclear program. The main implication of the word is a negative one that leads the addressee to conclude that what Iran determinedly is looking for is not anything but a nuclear bomb to use against the United States and the West.

*100 -Mr. Ahmadinejad also spoke of American efforts to thwart Iran's nuclear **ambitions** and questioned the deployment of the United States military around the world (January 29, 2009) [My emphasis]*

*101 -Iran was preparing a new package ... to talk directly with the country and other powers seeking to rein in Tehran's nuclear **ambitions**. (April 26, 2009) [My emphasis]*

- *Iran's heedlessness to international demand about its nuclear program*

The other major theme of news pieces in the Obama period is the frequently repeated subject of Iran's heedlessness to the international community's demand to suspend uranium enrichment and giving up what the West describes as Iran's ambition to make a nuclear bomb. In the time Iran not only didn't intend to suspend enrichment but also it was installing another 2300 centrifuges – added to its about 5000 ones – in the country's main enrichment center at Natanz near Isfahan

(NYT, June 5, 2009). These are good reasons for the United States to worry about Iran nuclear activities as it was reflected in the previous part. However, when Iran is standing against the international community instead of the United States alone, the reason for being worried about Iran's activities will be better justified.

Speaking about these words that the United States is *locked in dispute* with Iran in 102, one can say when America is concordant with the other countries of the world in a common anxiety about what Iran does in its nuclear centers, this country's sense of insecurity will be more legitimated and consequently its reactions against the basic cause of this anxiety will be more recognized, too. For the very reason Washington is not alone in its kind of relationship with Iran.

If the international dimension is taken into consideration, it will be to some extent complicated to explain instance 103, where according to the President Obama, *the real position of Iran in the international community will be reached through the leaving enriching uranium and supporting terrorism*. In other words, Iran has not reached that position because it is enriching uranium and supporting terrorism. What President Obama is pointing to is Iran's international position, not simply its position in a bilateral relation with the United States; *NYT* writes down in the same issue 'he said the United States wanted Iran to take its "rightful place in the community of nations" but insisted that Tehran would have to do its part to achieve reconciliation'. It is clear that President Obama's words are the words of not only the president of the United States of America but also it seems these are the selected words of a speech by a representative of international community. According to this, instance 103 implies that the United States is speaking authoritatively as the representative for the world and by the other side Iran is a country standing not only against the will of the United States but also against all of the international community.

102 -Along with other governments, Washington is locked in a dispute with Tehran over Iran's nuclear program. (January 29, 2009) [My emphasis]

103 -"And the measure of that greatness is not the capacity to destroy, it is your demonstrated ability to build and create," he [President Obama] added, alluding to Iran's contested nuclear program and its missile development efforts. (March 20, 2009) [My emphasis]

- *Iran's untrustworthy expressions and claims and unreliable behaviors*

Iran is a danger to the United States because it is enriching uranium to make a bomb besides it is supporting terrorism. The next one of the long list of accusations that Iran is faced to, is its carelessness to the international demand about its atomic file. There is no difference in which stage of the relationship, Iranians and Americans are, this skepticism exists among Americans and they cannot trust any government of Iran's Islamic regime, whether that is the *reformist government* of ex-president Mohammad Khatami or *populist* government of Ahmadinejad. The interesting fact about the cases of distrustfulness of Americans about Iranian government is that these cases are the most frequent cases among the major nine themes related to lexical choices. It clearly shows despite that the changes has been made to the relations of two countries, there is still such an atmosphere, which continuously conveys that Iran uses any opportunity to reach to its atomic ambitions and for *NYT* it is the most stressed fact regarding Iran in the Obama period.

As mentioned above there is no difference whose government is ruling the country; the policy is the same. In 104, Mr. Khatami is charged of accusations that he *has not shown real will and attempt to change and reform the condition*. The most signalized implication of these sentences is that the government of the Iran does not show a real intention to reform the country. Because of that, if the reformists such Mr. Khatami possibly restore to the power they are not supposed to change anything. Overall, it means that they are not to change country's policy about nuclear case and terrorism support.

*104 -...former president Mohammad Khatami, **the reformist who never garnered the power or the will to implement much reform**... (February 10, 2009) [My emphasis]*

Of course, it can be one of the similarities between the reformists and conservatives in Iran. Both of them are unreliable and speaking about the second group, needs less proves. Actually, it is represented in various ways from America's desperateness about Ahmadinejad to calling him *populist, hard-line* and *unchangeable*. In 105, *NYT* uses the adverb of *desperately* for discussing the views of the United States about any change in Iran resulting to the retirement of Ahmadinejad. America is not easy with Ahmadinejad and as it seems cannot work with him and his conservative government. Iran under his government has speeded up the enrichment and installation of centrifuges and has called for Israel destruction and sweeping it from the world map. Because of all of these, the United States cannot trust him and calling him *populist* is

another proof for it. He is a populist, because he belies his people about his fight against the corruption to win the election, according to *NYT*.

*105 -Presumably that's a relief to Washington, which **desperately** wants to see President Ahmadinejad sent to an early and permanent retirement (February 10, 2009)*
[My emphasis]

*106 -Although the harsh criticisms have shocked many Iranians, they seem to have played well with Mr. Ahmadinejad's followers, who view them as a natural part of his **populist campaign** against the rich and the corrupt. (June 8, 2009)* [My emphasis]

According to *NYT*, the United States' problem in Iran is not with the individuals but with the whole system in general. Americans generally do not recognize the Islamic regime as a trustful regime because after all it tries to reach at least a part of its nuclear program that the West believes has a military aim (107). Besides that, its leaders are *hard-line* people they do not change their mind about their main ambition to make a nuclear bomb (108) throughout these years they have shown it and have continued their path to make a nuclear weapon, the only matter that have previously been discussed in instance number 99.

*107 -It's almost **inconceivable**, some of Mr. Obama's aides acknowledge, that the Iranians will be willing to give up everything needed to produce a weapon. (February 10, 2009)* [My emphasis]

*108 -Iran's **hard-line** leaders need to publicly maintain some degree of anti-The United States rhetoric to bolster their own position, he said. (March 21, 2009)* [My emphasis]

In the 109, using the phrase of *despite the conciliatory tone* represents *NYT* viewpoint about the fact that although Iran may show some changes in his tone toward the United States but practically nothing is changed about this country and because of this the United States should not rely on Iran in future relations and possible negotiations with it. 110, is an emphasis on the subject. *Gradually escalated*, shows another matter with the reliability of Iranian government. While at first Roxana Saberi, Iranian-American journalist was arrested because of buying a bottle of wine which is forbidden in Iran, her charges change and become more serious until finally she has been charged of spying for the United States in Iran. The main point is that *NYT* looks at this

case as if Iran is playing a political game with the card of an American citizen. While at first she has sentenced to eight years in prison, according to the judgment of a court of review, Ms. Saberi was released on the next month. On May 11, 2009, *NYT* writes, “American officials said Iran’s handling of the Saberi case underlined a deepening divide within its leadership about how to respond to President Obama’s recent overtures”. According to this, the first part of this case just like the releasing of her is a political game that as just mentioned, Iranian do over the American citizens card so according to *NYT*, the United States government should not rely on such regime.

109-Despite the conciliatory tone, Iranian authorities on Wednesday charged an American-Iranian freelance journalist, Roxana Saberi, with spying, according to a senior judiciary official. (April 8, 2009) [My emphasis]

*110 -The charges against her **gradually escalated** to working illegally without a press card and then spying for the United States. (April 27, 2009) [My emphasis]*

- *Authenticating Iranian opposition groups and government’s adversaries*

Legitimizing the oppositions groups is one of the common strategies in both periods to illegalizing the Islamic government of Tehran. In the Obama period, this process takes place by signaling the emotional aspect of opposition movement against the government and bleeding for opposition groups.

As mentioned before, Roxana Saberi the Iranian-American journalist was arrested in Tehran with the charge of being a spy of the United States. The kind of behavior that Iranian government has shown toward her is the first topic of this part. The general approach of *NYT* is in a way that causes the addressee to sympathize her. Describing the atmosphere of her visit with her parents *in jail* or *in prison* and pointing to her *32nd birthday* while she is under arrest, help to draw this picture.

*111 -Her parents have been allowed **to visit her in jail** every week. (April 27, 2009) [My emphasis]*

*112 -Mr. Saberi spoke after he and his wife, Akiko, **visited her in prison on Monday, a day after her 32nd birthday**. (April 27, 2009) [My emphasis]*

The next case is related to what was going on in Iran during the campaigns for the presidential election of 2009. The main opponent of Ahmadinejad in this rally, Mir Hussein Moussavi although the previous prime minister, but at the time was counted as an opposition against the government of Ahmadinejad that as mentioned above the United States desperately hoped not to be elected again. Because according to *NYT*, Ahmadinejad administration was so strict to gain nuclear weapon and the worse thing about it was its will to demolish Israel. In this condition *NYT*, signaling the number of Mr. Moussavi's fans, tries to illegitimate Ahmadinejad's government. Actually, it shows when most of Iranians are for his opponent in this election so they are not satisfied with the sum actions of his government generally.

In 113, it is obvious that when Ahmadinejad's fans are *to match the raucous outdoor* [of the Tehran main prayer hall] *rallies*, they are not as many as the Moussavi's fans. Even despite all of Ahmadinejad's campaign efforts, the crowd for Mr. Moussavi is so numerous and more than the people gathered for Ahmadinejad insofar Moussavi's fans *overmatched his rally* (114). In 115, there is a portrayal of Mr. Moussavi's fans who resemble a sea of human which is used to emphasis the number of people for him and as a result against Ahmadinejad.

*113 -Mr. Ahmadinejad's campaign organized a huge rally ... **apparently in an effort to match the raucous outdoor rallies** that are being held nightly by followers of Mir Hussein Moussavi... (June 8, 2009) [My emphasis]*

*114 -But the president's rally **was overmatched in turn**... (June 8, 2009) [My emphasis]*

*115 -Moussavi's followers, **who formed a human sea of people** that blocked traffic for miles along one of Tehran's main boulevards. (June 8, 2009) [My emphasis]*

- *The Iranian-Israeli relations*

Although in comparison with Bush period, what is related to Israel and Iran relationships has been noticed less, but anyhow still it is important. The only instance is related to the trip of the pope to the Israel and Israel prime minister's demand of him to condemn Iran's authorities who have called for destroying his country. The issue refers to Ahmadinejad's expressions that had called for Israel demolishing and sweeping it from the world map. Although according to *NYT* this kind of explicit expression by him has taken place just for one time, the newspaper signalizes it by mentioning that *he has made some others but not so sharply*.

116 -Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has called for Israel's destruction, although on at least one occasion last year, he used somewhat less severe language, saying Israel would collapse. (May 14, 2009)

4-4 Overcompleteness

4-4-1 Bush time

All the cases of overcompleteness in the Bush time can be categorized as follows, although there are some subdivisions in every category.

1. Iran's nuclear case
2. Criticizing the Iranian government
3. Iran's danger to Israel

- *Iran's nuclear case*

The most frequent cases of overcompleteness in this period are related to the nuclear crisis of Iran on the international stage. The major themes of this part include some cases like the Iran's effort to conceal its nuclear program while its final aim is to make some nuclear weapons in the shadow of a peaceful nuclear activity. Iran's last steps to make a nuclear bomb, the country's bad relationships with IAEA, and Iranians' effort to export their harmful nuclear technology to other countries like Syria are the major overcompleted topics related to nuclear file of Iran. In one of these instances 117, NTY mentions that despite the denial it by Iran, the West believes, Iran is processing a military nuclear program. The sentence has just written after that Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani criticizes El-Baradei, the chief of IAEA for being ambiguous about the Iran's atomic case. In this report Mr. El-Baradei wants Iran to give more proves to the IAEA to prove that its nuclear program does not contain any military purposes. Here the quotation from western countries that accuses Iran of having a clandestine nuclear program can be counted as a clarification to El-Baradei's sentence and moderate it in this way that Iran should give up its atomic military program to convince the international atomic energy agency that its program is a peaceful one.

117. The United States and some other Western countries have accused Iran of conducting a clandestine weapons program under the guise of developing civilian nuclear reactors. (November 21, 2008)

This suspicion of the international community from the viewpoint of *NYT* about Iran's atomic activities continues. In the next instance where Iranian authorities are quoted as saying that Iran is going to complete the building of Arak complex to produce radioisotopes for medical care and agriculture, immediately *NYT* overcompletes the statement with this sentence implying these radioisotopes as well as can be used to make a nuclear bomb and in this way *NYT* relates this activity of Iran to the question of making a bomb .

*118 -Iran says the Arak complex, scheduled to be completed next year, will produce radioisotopes for medical care and agriculture. **Some Western officials fear that it could also yield plutonium, one of the prime components for making atomic weapons.** (November 21, 2008) [My emphasis]*

The next exactly resembles example number 118. While Iran insists that its enrichment just has peaceful aspects, the West believes that Iran is going through a clandestine atomic program. These sentences are overcompleted with description of the uranium usage. *NYT* writes that while uranium can be used for peaceful purposes at the same time it can be used to make bombs if it is *enriched to high levels*. Enrichment is exactly what Iran does and what the international community wants Iran to stop and it is the main source of suspicion of the West about Iran because the United States and the West believes Iran uses it for military purposes but Iran says it enriches uranium for peaceful purposes.

*119 -The announcement came amid growing international concern over Iran's nuclear program, which it says is for energy production but the West fears is intended to produce weapons. **Uranium, which can be used as fuel for a nuclear power plant, can serve in making bombs if enriched to high levels.** (November 26, 2008) [My emphasis]*

This process of accusation is going to be intensified in the next case where some experts are quoted and they believe that Iran is so near to make a nuclear bomb. The interesting point here is that, theses quoted experts have based their claim on the ElBaradei's newly published report that urged Iran to deliver more proves that it is keeping the right path in its atomic program. Actually,

the report does not clarify that Iran is making a nuclear bomb but using this sentence about Arak heavy water complex just after those claims made by ElBaradei, direct the addressee to think or comprehend in this way.

120 -Several nuclear experts, in analyzing the latest report from Dr. ElBaradei, said Iran had produced roughly enough nuclear material to make a single atom bomb, with added purification. (November 21, 2008)

The next interesting matter about this instance is that even the Iranian Authority is overcompleted here. Aki Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the chief of System Interest Recognition Assembly (SIRA) and the commentator to the weekly Friday prayers, is introduced as a former president. Although he used to be the president of Islamic republic for eight years but the main significant thing is that Mr. Rafsanjani's words as a cleric – although a high cleric –and not an official authority does not seem so valid. By the other side, his position as the chief of SIRA is not so familiar to the addressees. But, mentioning him as former president of the country make his words become legally important and in its turn as a formal viewpoint of the Islamic Republic, it can show the dissatisfaction of the Iranians about ElBaradei's reports that does not prove that Iran is following a peaceful nuclear program although Iran has done a lot to provide evidence with this.

*121 -The cleric, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, **who is also a former president**, said at Friday Prayer that a report released Wednesday by Mohamed ElBaradei, the atomic energy agency's director general, was ambiguous. (November 21, 2008) [My emphasis]*

Portraying Iran as a country which through its nuclear activities, tries to gain atomic weapon is not only restricted to what Iranians do by themselves but it is related also to their strategic allies like Syria. At the end of a report in *NYT*, which is devoted to Iran's nuclear activities and suspects that these activities are parts of a clandestine program, there is a case of overcompleteness that is related to Syria's nuclear program. Syria is a strategic ally to Iran and also it is situated in the Israeli borders and by the other side, it is in the terrorism supporters list of the United States (Karim, 2000). In this report, *NYT* gives information about a site in a desert region, which was bombed by Israelis in 2007 (*NYT*, November 21, 2008). According to that IAEA has found ambiguous traces of uranium in this site and also in the same manner as the

authorities of Islamic Republic that don't allow the agency to visit the Arak complex (NYT, June 5, 2009), *NYT* reports that the Syrian authorities won't allow inspectors from agency to visit the site. As mentioned above these sentences have been inserted in the end of a report related to Iran's suspected nuclear activities and these collocations can bring some connections between them into the mind. There are some similarities between the behaviour of the two countries for that none of them allow the agency to inspect a site and both of them are accused of having a suspected nuclear program. All of these cases lead the addressee that there should be a connection between these two countries nuclear programs. That is not a strange conclusion to think that, it is Iran that helps Syria to gain atomic weapon and to use it against Israel especially while one of the authorities of Islamic Republic – Ahmadinejad – publicly has called for sweeping Israel from world map (NYT, February 10, 2009).

122 -In another development, a senior Syrian atomic energy official said Friday that inspectors from the international agency had no right to revisit a site that was bombed by Israel last year.

The agency, in a separate report also released Wednesday, said it had found ambiguous traces of uranium at the site, in a remote desert region of Syria, where some countries suspected Syria was building a nuclear reactor'. (November 21, 2008)

- *Criticizing the Iranian government*

The next major issue regarding the cases of overcompleteness in the data is the theme of inefficiency of Iran's government and criticizing it because of the way this government treats the adversaries. The cases of this theme contain the cases of corruption of authorities and Ahmadinejad's unsuccessful economic programs, too. The first case is related to the instance of Ali Kordan the Interior Minister of Ahmadinejad administration who was fired by the parliament because of his fake honorary doctorate degree that he had claimed he was given by Oxford University. The issue has been used as overcompleteness for the matter of next presidential election on June 2009 and the problems of Ahmadinejad to be nominated in that election, one of them was the disqualifying of his nominees for the post of Interior Minister after Ali Kordan.

123 -Mr. Mashai's remarks have set off more protests from legislators than the scandal over a fake degree involving another one of Mr. Ahmadinejad's senior officials, Ali Kordan. (September 19, 2008)

The next instance is related to the presidential election in June, too. Just like 123, the major theme here is that Ahmadinejad's government is inefficient and corrupted. In 124, the general condition of Iran election is described and there are the names of Ahmadinejad's possible opponents. He has ruled the country in the past four years and his failure is a failure for the system anyway so *NYT* mentions the public dissatisfaction regarding his management and especially his economic programs.

*124 -The arrests appeared to be part of a crackdown on activists and opposition figures ahead of the presidential elections in June. Mohammad Khatami, the reformist former president, said last week that he would run, posing a serious challenge to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, **whose popularity has been falling because of his government's poor economic performance.**(January 19, 2009) [My emphasis]*

The next important issue to be discussed here is the case of human rights. One of the most useful strategies to illegitimate a government is to question it about the moral principles that a legitimate government should be faithful to them. Among these moral principles, one of the most important is the way that government interacts with the opposition groups. Speaking about Iran, the way that Iranian government treats the different social and political groups is a frequent subject to be mentioned by *NYT*. In the cases related to overcompleteness, this theme is represented through describing images that make the addressee have sympathy with people who are in interaction with the government of Iran whiles they are in the opposite side of it.

The first image is related to Arash and Kamiar Alaei, two brothers and doctors who were functioning in a program whose aim was to prevent Aids. They were arrested in accusation of spying for The United States and trying to overthrow the Islamic regime of Tehran with the backing of the United States. The second case is related to the first one. Here *NYT* gives another example for the similar treatment of the government regarding three other scholars and facing them with the charge of trying to overthrow the government. The interesting point about both of these images is the emotional effect of them. The first case (10) the charges are to be faced to

two brothers whose jobs are to give support and help people against one of the most dangerous diseases of human community and now they are arrested because of the accusation that as before mentioned in lexical choices are ridiculed by *NYT*. In the next example the accusation is attributed to some scholars among them a woman who is an academic researcher who works for an institute in Washington.

125 -The two men, who are brothers, are well-known doctors who founded the country's first HIV-prevention program. (January 19, 2009)

126 -Authorities jailed three scholars in 2007 on similar charges of trying to overthrow the government but later released them. 'One of them was Iranian-American academic Haleh Esfandiari, the director of the Middle East Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington'. (January 19, 2009)

- *Iran's danger to Israel*

The next part is devoted to the Iranian-Israeli relationship, which is a vital relationship for the United States. Iran is not a friend of Israel or Israeli people as Iran's leader Ayatollah Khamenei has said (*NYT*, September 19, 2008). By the other side, Iran is a determined enemy of Israel and as Ahmadinejad frequently repeats it, Israel should be swept from the world map (*NYT*, February 10, 2009). Therefore, it is a natural approach to count Iran as a threat to the existence of Jewish state of Israel. This major fact is represented by *NYT* in various ways and there are some cases of overcompleting, too

In the first case the reaction of the Jewish against the Islamic Republic has been overcompleted to a story in which Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has insisted that his country is not a friend of Israeli people despite what one of the president deputies – Esfandiar Rahim Mashai – had said before. Ayatollah Khamenei believes that the people of Israel are the members of the Israeli army and they have occupied the holy land of Palestinians. Mentioning the rally of the Jewish against Ahmadinejad in the New York City where every year he goes to address all the leaders and people of the world, can be concluded as a general adversary among all the Jewish groups and not just the Zionists.

*128 -Ayatollah Khamenei's comments came before Mr. Ahmadinejad's trip to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly. **Jewish groups have said that they will hold a rally against him.** (September 19, 2008) [My emphasis]*

The second example is related to the missile test made by Iran in which some new missiles were tested that the range of them has made *NYT* worried. Despite the fact that in the same news, Iranian Defense Minister has announced that these missiles are used only for defense, mentioning the distance of Israeli capital of Tel Aviv, which is about the half of the range of the missiles, induces an aggressive aspect for these missiles and Iranians against Israelis

129 -At the time, state-run news media said the missiles were long -and medium-range weapons, and included a Shahab-3, which Tehran maintains can hit targets up to 1,250 miles away from its firing position. 'Parts of western Iran are within 650 miles of Tel Aviv'. (November 12, 2008)

4-4-2 Obama time

The major themes of the Obama time can be summarized and classified in this way:

1. Criticizing the Iranian government
2. Iran's nuclear program
3. The relationships of Iran and the United States
4. Iranian-Israeli relations
5. Other cases

- *Criticizing the Iranian government*

The major stress of the overcompleteness cases is related to the instances, which designate Iran government's inefficiency and the corruption within its monophonic system, its improper treatment with the opposition groups, and homogeneity of the government regarding the basic issues. What is represented in 130 firstly challenges the legitimacy of the government and secondly represents it economically as an unsuccessful government that cannot satisfy the voters to elect him again and believes that the government has not applied a proper method of management. Using the sentence of *it's never exactly clear who is running the country's foreign policy*, *NYT* represents the Iranian government as a system in which there is not a consistency of

decisions and the policy-making centers are ambiguous. Because of these reasons the United States or any other country cannot negotiate or sign any document with it since every derived agreement can be disaffirmed by any person or any other center that doesn't recognize the agreement or isn't interested in. However this expressed ambiguity about the decision making in Iran, is clarified in the 131, the answer to the question still is another challenge to the legitimacy of the country's government. In 131, Ayatollah Khamenei has been introduced as the final reference of making decisions in Iran. That is the exact clue to lead the addressee to think that Iran's government is a monophonic government in which the decision are made just by one not as a general agreement of people or their representatives.

One of the most challenging discussions against the government of Ahmadinejad contains what has been overcompleted in 132. As a consequent of the fact that his mismanagement in economic fields causes many people to refuse to elect him president, *NYT* writes that he is going to fix the vote in the presidential election. Although *NYT* quotes the news from some reformist websites and resources but the sentence which contains this fact about the news sources has been detopicalized and does not attract much attention.

130 -It was only three weeks ago today, in his inaugural address, that Mr. Obama promised a new relationship with nations willing to "uncle their fist," an offer he repeated at his news conference on Monday evening. In addition, it is too early to know quite how to read Mr. Ahmadinejad's declaration that "Our nation is ready to hold talks based on mutual respect and in a fair atmosphere." After all, 'it's never exactly clear who is running the country's foreign policy', and there is good reason to question whether the fiery Iranian president 'will overcome his mismanagement of the country's economy to survive the June 12 elections there'. (February 10, 2009).

*131 -Ayatollah Khamenei, **who holds the ultimate responsibility for Iranian policy decisions**, was responding Saturday to a video message Mr. Obama released Friday... (March 21, 2009) [My emphasis]*

*132 -For weeks, Mr. Ahmadinejad's opponents have been saying they are concerned that the government will rig the vote in his favor. **On Monday, a group of Interior Ministry employees released a letter saying a senior cleric close to Mr. Ahmadinejad***

had authorized fixing the vote in his favor, several reformist Web sites reported. (June 8, 2009) [My emphasis]

All of the cases related to the instances of crackdown on the opposition groups in this period are referring to what happened to Roxana Saberi an Iranian-American journalist who at first was arrested for buying a bottle of wine but later on accused of being a spy of the United States. Although the case of Mrs. Saberi is just one case and instances of restriction for adversaries in NYT's news stories in Obama time is just limited to her but even just this case can be regarded as an example for other cases and by the other side there is a huge amount of criticism about Iranian government and its behaviour to the oppositions.

There are three cases of overcompleteness in 133. The first case refers to the fact that Mrs. Saberi has been working for six years in the country and she has had no problem with anybody. Therefore, what happened to her that she has been accused of many charges, from buying something illegal in Iran to spying for the United States of America? Actually, in the time, that President Obama has requested Iran to *unclench its fist* (NYT, January 29, 2009) and there is a possibility of future negotiations between two countries, she is arrested possibly as a card for Iranian to be played in proper time. The next point of this instance is about impermissibility of wine in Iran and this subtle point that one can be jailed just because of buying a bottle of it. Here there is another case of overcompleteness, which can be found in the end of the paragraph. This overcompleteness indicates that Mrs. Saberi's press card has been revoked more than 2 years before she was arrested. This one probably can imply that Mrs. Saberi has been under pressure of Iran government since then but they have waited until the proper moment to arrest her and use in their game. The next one in 134, has used an emotional scene to criticize Iranians over their treatment with someone like Roxana Saberi as a journalist whose all of misdeed is just buying a bottle of wine. In this condition, her family is permitted to visit her once a week and even this visit takes place in prison. The same matter is expressed in 135, where her mother cannot speak to her freely, their conversation should be translated into Persian so that the prison authorities, and maybe the security authorities can understand a mother and daughter's conversation.

*133 -His daughter, 'who has worked as a journalist in Tehran for six years', was arrested in late January for buying a bottle of wine, **which is illegal in Iran.** The*

*charges against her gradually escalated to working illegally without a press card and then spying for the United States. **Her press card was revoked in 2006.*** (April 27, 2009) [My emphasis]

*134 -Ms. Saberi was in a good mood, her father said. **Her parents have been allowed to visit her in jail every week.*** (April 27, 2009) [My emphasis]

135 -“They asked me to translate her conversation with her mother,” said Mr. Saberi, explaining that his wife does not speak Persian. (April 27, 2009)

For eight years, (1997-2005) Mohammad Khatami’s reformist administration ruled the country. During these years, he tried to reform the economy, politics and some cultural visions inside the country. At the same time, he was scuffling with the conservatives of the government who were not so flexible about these changes. There are different views about the result of this struggle between the reformists and the conservatives and this point that how much Mr. Khatami was successful in his way to change the country. One of those visions belongs to *NYT* that believes that Mr. Khatami was not successful and even believes that he was not so serious to reform the country, in the other words it means that in reality, he did not want to reform the country rather the reform age in Iran was just a show. All of this can be understood by the sentence in the second line which writes *former president Mohammad Khatami, [is] the reformist who never garnered the power or the will to implement much reform.* Actually, by *NYT*’s idea there is no difference between the Iranian authorities, all of them are the same. Just like Ahmadinejad who is unfavorable in West because of his remarks about decline of liberal democracy, Israel and the Holocaust, Mr. Khatami also does not have so much brilliant résumé and even he is an unreliable person to negotiate with.

*136 -And in Iran itself, the June 12 race for the presidency has been energized by the announcement over the weekend by former president Mohammad Khatami, **the reformist who never garnered the power or the will to implement much reform,** that he wants his old job back. Presumably that is a relief to Washington, which desperately wants to see President Ahmadinejad sent to an early and permanent retirement, and with him Iran’s proclamations about Israel’s eventual destruction and America’s inevitable decline.* (February 10, 2009) [My emphasis]

- *Iran's nuclear program*

There is a shadow of previous case theme in the next instance, which deals with Iran's nuclear case. While just like the previous period there is a great doubt about what Iran does in the country's nuclear lab and centers, *NYT* tries to show that Iran –the country which insists it is using atomic energy in a peaceful way despite what The United States and its allies think – is only some steps away from reaching nuclear weapons. As already mentioned, just like the 20 there is the same theme that believes there is no difference between Iranian authorities in 21 too. In a news story about installation of more centrifuges in the Iran's main enrichment center in Natanz, which implies that Iran is so near to make a bomb, there is a case of overcompleteness that represent Iranians as careless government to the demand of the international community. The reason is that Ahmadinejad stays against international community and the United Nations and insists on the country's decision to continue the nuclear activity and uranium enrichment. The rest of news in addition to what precedes the overcompleteness case can lead in the conclusion that Iran, despite the demand of international community, is going to make a nuclear bomb and nothing can stop it from reaching. Here like Ahmadinejad his opponents in the election believe that Iran should follow its way in the nuclear field and should not give it up because of the pressure of the America and its western allies. The key point here is that Ahmadinejad has vowed to stay against United Nations that means to stand against the entire world and international community and his opponents in the election share the same vision with him.

*137 -Campaigning for re-election next week, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has vowed that he will never bend to demands from the West or the United Nations that Iran halt its uranium enrichment. **His political opponents have largely agreed, but have urged a more cooperative attitude.** (June 5, 2009) [My emphasis]*

As mentioned before, *NYT* represents the contrast of Iran and international community as opposition in which Iran loses its international legitimacy and The United States gains it. This interpretation has had a clear voice in all of the researched processes up to the moment. In instance number 133, where *NYT* reports about President Obama's video congratulation message to the people of Iran for the Nowruz (new Iranian year) and it writes about the atmosphere of change in the relation of two countries, there is a case of overcompleteness that

reminds the addressee of the root of the problem between Iran and the United States. In this report, *NYT* never speaks about the Iranian complaints of the United States or about the wrong actions that the United States has done against Iranians, rather it only recognizes Iran to be responsible for this problems. Actually, this overcompleting sentence recognizes Iran as responsible for the existing problems, which are Iran's nuclear activities, and its supports for terrorists. Actually the main implication here is that although President Obama wants to changes the existing conditions between two countries but we – the people in America's side – should remember that they are enriching uranium to make a nuclear bomb and support the terrorism which both of them are against the interests of the United States of America. The exact matter has been notified in the next instance where Iran is accused of enrich uranium for making bombs while Iran denies it. The interesting point about the case is that like the previous one this doubt about Iran's nuclear activities is expressed in this condition that there is a possibility for the initiation of the relation between Iran and the United States. In the news story on April 8, *NYT* reports about the preparedness of The United States to join the talks about Iran's nuclear case that at that moment was a new season in the relationships between Iran and America and something completely new in the Iran-America relation after 30 years.

138 -The two countries have been locked in disputes with Washington over Iran's nuclear ambitions and its support for militant Islamic groups. (March 20, 2009)

139 -Since then, Iran has continued enriching uranium, which it says is intended for nuclear energy but which is regarded by the United States and its allies as part of a clandestine nuclear weapons program. (April 8, 2009)

In the condition that Iran was getting ready to answer the agency's questions about its nuclear case, *NYT* reporting this, still is doubtful about Iran's response and counts it useless and unrealistic. For example, the first paragraph of *NYT*'s report expresses the administration's skepticism about Iran's report, the third one writes about the rejection of the same proposal of Iranians by Bush administration and the last three ones write about the Ahmadinejad's vision about Iran's hostility to Americans and the problem between two countries. In this condition the following overcompleted sentence represents the vagueness of Iran's response and confirms the predications about the usefulness of this response

140 -He [Ahmadinejad] declined to elaborate on the contents of his proposal. (April 26, 2009)

The next cases of overcompleteness show the real danger of Iran and this fact that this country is so near to making a nuclear bomb. Both of the cases are related to a news piece that is related to a report, which states that Iran is so near to making an atomic bomb since it has the necessary components and its centrifuges are enriching uranium steadily. Actually as it seems to be, the original report that is quoted by *NYT*, does not mention clearly that Iran is making a bomb. It only says that Iran recently has installed some centrifuges to enrich uranium. Nevertheless, *NYT* uses the experts' ideas, which say these centrifuges, are enough and even more than enough to enrich uranium to make a bomb. Despite this fact in 142, *NYT*, using a case of overcompleteness, shows that it is not important that Iran has not yet reached nuclear weapon, it is just *a step that would take months*. These cases of overcompleteness signalize the Iran's nuclear program danger to western countries and make the addressee ready to accept as a danger to her/his country and consequently daily life.

141 -A week before Iran's presidential election, atomic inspectors reported Friday that the country has sped up its production of nuclear fuel and increased its number of installed centrifuges to 7,200 -'more than enough, weapon experts said, to make fuel for up to two nuclear weapons a year, if the country decided to use its facilities for that purpose'. (June 5, 2009)

*142 -In its report, the International Atomic Energy Agency said that it had found no evidence that any of the fuel in Iran's possession had been enriched to the purity needed to make a bomb, **a step that would take months**. (June 5, 2009) [My emphasis]*

The last important instance related to the case of Iran's nuclear file is also relevant to Iran-Israel relations and also to the United States relations with Iran. In a *NYT* report on the complicatedness of the United States relations with Israel after that Obama has tried to be closer to Iran, it writes that Israelis have requested George W. Bush to allow them to attack Iran's nuclear sites and Bush turned them down in response. Here the overcompleteness embedded the presupposition that tell us Iran is making a bomb but the United States strongly has stood against it.

143 -As the Times reported last month, a little less than a year ago the Israeli government came to President Bush seeking the bunker-busting bombs, the refueling capability and the overflight rights over Iraq to take out Iran's main nuclear enrichment plant, at Natanz. President Bush — **the man who elevated preemption to a “doctrine” and who declared he would never, ever allow Iran to develop the capability to build a nuclear weapon** — turned the Israelis down'. (February 10, 2009) [My emphasis]

- *The relationships of Iran and the United States*

The third major theme of overcompleteness cases in this period is about the relationships between the United States and Iran. Actually surveying these relationships is limited to finding reasons for the lack of these relations between two countries and notifying that the United States has changed its approach about Iran. In these instances, Iran is the major blameful for what happened to the warm relation between two countries, thirty years ago. In the first case in a report about rejecting the President Obama's offering friendship to the authorities of the Islamic Republic by Ayatollah Khamenei, and after he blamed Americans to cause a lot of problems for the nation and government of Iran, *NYT* mentions the main cause of animosity between two countries which is the seize of America's Embassy in Tehran in 1979. However, *NYT* never mentions why those young angry men at that November attack the United States embassy. This approach can be counted as a response to Iran leader who blames the United States for the existing problems between two countries. In the next instance, there is a flexibility of America toward Iran. Actually, this case is counted as an emphasis on the major shift of the United States.

144 -Diplomatic ties between the United States and Iran were cut after the country's Islamic Revolution in 1979 and the taking of hostages at the American Embassy in Tehran that year. The United States and Iran loosely cooperated in late 2001 and 2002 in the Afghanistan conflict, but the contacts soon fizzled — and were extinguished completely when President Bush said Iran was part of an “axis of evil.” (March 21, 2009)

145 -The Obama administration —**in a major shift from President George W. Bush's isolation policy toward Iran, which he once branded part of an “axis of evil”** — has expressed openness to direct diplomatic contacts with Iran. (March 20, 2009) [My emphasis]

- *Iranian-Israeli relations*

There is an instance of overcompleteness referring to the relationships between Iran and Israel, in which *NYT* through reporting a news story about pope's visit of Middle East mentions Ahmadinejad's remarks about Israel and Holocaust and writes although he has said it clearly just once, but there are other cases that he implied something similar. A logical result of such a discussion is that the addressee accepts that Iran is a basic danger to existence of Israel and although it may moderate its words as a result of international community reaction but still its ideas about Israel are the same.

146 -(In the past, Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has called for Israel's destruction, although on at least one occasion last year, he used somewhat less severe language, saying Israel would collapse.) (May 14, 2009)

- *Other cases*

There is another case of overcompleteness, which does not resemble to be related to the general discussion of this paper. It refers to the pope's visit of Middle East and a request by Netanyahu who asks him to condemn Iran for its authorities' remark about sweeping the Jewish state from the world map. Mostly it seems to be an informational sentence.

The Vatican has full diplomatic ties with Iran. (May 14, 2009)

4-5 Voices

There is a huge amount of flexibility in describing a piece of news. Actually, these choices between the different possible aspects of news can give us an opportunity to analysis the structure and to investigate what is behind the selecting or deselecting a special feature. One of these features of news is the fortunes given to the different people to have voice in the media and also the way that the media represents their voices through direct or indirect quotation or through the selection of the sources. According to Van Dijk (1988b)

... most of the news is about events that do not allow for direct observation or for description by eyewitnesses. Reporters get it from other media, from news agencies, or from reports of others. Their factuality must be assessed in different ways, and the rhetorical strategy used is a subtle use and quotation of sources. (p.87)

4-5-1 Bush time

A statistical comparison between the quoted voices of Americans and Iranians reveals that in this period there is a considerable priority of the numbers of direct and indirect quotation from Iranian sources over American counterparts (table 4-5). According to Teo (2000)

...this dependency on the legitimized sources of information results in a predominantly established view of the world, in which lay people are only entitled to their experience but not their opinions. In this way, the use of quotation becomes a gate-keeping device that admits only those in position of power and influence while shutting out the opinions and perspectives of those deemed by society to be powerless. (p.18)

Considering this fact, one can say that the frequency of the quoting from a source has a direct relationship with its power and the rank that this source is situated in comparison with the other sources. According to this, it is possible to say that Iran in this period has been demonstrated as a powerful country because there are many cases of quotation from it. Actually, the same fact has been expressed in naming process in the same period where the analysis of the process indicated that Iran is a powerful country and because it is publicly known as an America's enemy, it is potentially a great danger to America or at least to America's interest worldwide or in the Middle East.

Table4-5.The number of cases of quoting in Bush time

	Direct quotation	Indirect quotation	Sum
Iranian sources	20	26	46
American sources	4	10	14
Other sources	1	1	2

The next point that this investigation indicates is about the sources of the news, which are used to quote Iranians or Americans. News writers have access to a massive amount of sources to (re)produce news. According to van Dijk (1988b), four processes of selection, summarization, local semantic, and stylistic transformations are applied to a source text to be transformed to a news story which in turn is controlled by five other factors, among them the goal of the news (re)production. Therefore, the goal of news can manage the source of news and the way that these sources are used. Sheyholislami (2001) quoting form Van Dijk(1993, p. 252) writes that "For example ... when a saying is placed in quotation marks, or it is accompanied by such words

as *claim*, *alleged* or *accuse* we may conclude that the reporter takes at least some distance from the statement” (p.74). Using this special kind of verbs is not the only way of taking distance from a source or from the fact that is represented in the news. Mentioning the name of a distinct source in the news accelerates the process and makes it possible for the addresser to convey the addressees that s/he cannot accept any responsibility regarding the news and embedded information. Although because of the professional morality and the fact that the media possibly do not have the direct access to the source(s) of the news or to its discourse, there is a justified reason to mention the name of the sources but anyhow it seems to result in the same cognitional effects.

In this period in most of the cases, that Iranians are quoted there is the name of a source originated from this country. This results in the fact that *NYT* takes distance from what is quoted from Iranians, which in its turn communicate a sense of unreliability of Iranians while at the same time almost all of the cases related to Americans are quoted from the original source and not from the second hand and unreliable one.

147. Gholam Reza Aghazadeh, head of the Atomic Organization, brushed off the demands that Iran suspend enriching uranium, saying “suspension has no meaning at all in Iran’s culture, and no such thing exists,” ISNA news agency quoted him as saying. (November 26, 2008) [My emphasis]

148. Mr. Obama said he wanted to adopt “a new emphasis on respect and a new willingness on being willing to talk” to the Iranians, while making it clear “that we also have certain expectations.” (January 11, 2009)

The next important matter is related to the quoting from experts and credible sources. It’s natural that the addressees take it for granted what the Iranian or American authorities say is in the direct relation with their national interest so it in all likelihood, is not as much credible as the remarks of impartial source or of an expert who has a professional fair vision. Van Dijk (2001, p. 357) quotes Nesler et al. (1993) who believe that addressee wants to accept the opinions in the news source because of different factors among them is credibility of the sources such as scholars, experts, professionals, or reliable media. Van Dijk (1988b) notes down that

Yet, not all sources are equally credible (Hovland, Janis & Kelley, 1953; Cronkhite & Liska, 1980). There is a hierarchy of sources and associated degrees of their reliability. Elite sources are not only considered more newsworthy (as news actors) but also as more reliable as observers and opinion formulators. In a report about a strike, the director of a firm and the union leader will be quoted as sources much more often than the individual striker (Glasgow University Media Group, 1976, 1980). (p.87)

In the cases related to this period either most of the experts whose voices can be heard, are westerners who speak for the United States and against Iran or they are reformist Iranians that are counted as the opposition of Ahmadinejad's conservative administration. In other words, there is no room for experts or credible independent sources to speak for Iran's government. For example, in the following cases, a British weapon expert speaks about the danger of missile power of Iran to the West and the countries in the Middle East and the nuclear experts encounter the danger of Iran's atomic program.

149. *"The worry would be that it would be used against Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Israel — anyone in the region the Iranians took a dislike to," he [Mr. Lennox] said by telephone. (November 12, 2008)*

150. *A **British weapons expert**, Duncan Lennox, said the missile seemed to resemble an earlier one called the Ashoura. Its claimed range would enable it to strike targets in Israel or the Persian Gulf region, he said, (November 12, 2008) [My emphasis]*

151. ***Several nuclear experts**, in analyzing the latest report from Dr. ElBaradei, said Iran had produced roughly enough nuclear material to make a single atom bomb, with added purification. (November 21, 2008)*

While in the so limited cases in which a voice has been devoted to Iranians to be heard, Badr-al-sadat Mofidi, the deputy editor of the reformist daily Kargozaran, is quoted who speaks about Iran's presidential election and actually she is counted as an opposition figure of Ahmadinejad's government.

152. *"Maybe the conservatives are signaling to reformers that if they go after Mr. Khatami, they would get unified behind Mr. Ahmadinejad despite their differences with him," said **Badr-al-sadat Mofidi**, the deputy editor of the reformist daily Kargozaran.*

“The unity among conservatives can change if the reformers do not nominate Mr. Khatami,” she added. (November 10, 2008) [My emphasis]

4-5-2 Obama time

In the next period, the number of quotations from American sources increases and by the other side the number of times devoted to Iranian part decreases (table 4-6). This increase in the quotation from Americans gives more fortunes to them to express themselves and by the other side discolors the role and consequently the importance of Iran. As mentioned before signaling the role of Iran as a powerful country, and in the same time, introducing it as a danger to America's interests, prepare the addressee to accept the America's right to defend its interests or at least to adopt precautionary actions against it.

Table 4-6. The number of cases of quoting in Obama time

	Direct quotation	Indirect quotation	Sum
Iranian sources	19	10	29
American sources	16	15	31
Israeli sources	1	1	2
Other sources	1	0	1

In this period, just like the previous one most of the time no source is mentioned for the news that inform addressees about the United States while in the frequent number of the cases related to Iran there is a name-mentioning of a source which mostly is a domestic one. In the after Obama period, there is clear decrease in that kind of mentioning the sources that most of the time contains a domestic source for Iranians quoting. While a plenty of cases in the previous period contain such a component, in the later period this decrease to some cases. It seems that the image of Iran in the second period is more accessible, source are more real and reliable – since the media does not want to take distance from it – and overall Iran is discovered more realistically with its all of weak points and at the same time, dangers to the West and all of its interests.

153. “Pursuing very careful engagement on a range of issues that affect our interests and the interests of the world with Iran makes sense,” Secretary of State Hillary

Rodham Clinton said. "There's nothing more important than trying to convince Iran to cease its efforts to obtain a nuclear weapon." (April 8, 2009)

154. Ahmadinejad "We are waiting patiently," he said, referring to the policies of the new administration. "We will listen to the statements closely, we will carefully study their actions, and if there are real changes, we will welcome it." (January 29, 2009)

155. Mr. Ahmadinejad said Wednesday that the "slogan of change was good, but it could be of two kinds --a fundamental change or a tactical one," the official IRNA news agency said. It will soon become clear, IRNA quoted the Iranian leader as saying, whether Mr. Obama's comments were "just a change in tone." (January 29, 2009)

Data analysis of the voice cases also revealed that like the Bush time there is no room for expert voice of Iranian government while the expert voice of the United States and generally, the West increases. Most of these voices are quoted from IAEA experts or from the reports prepared by them.

*156. ...**atomic inspectors reported** Friday that the country has sped up its production of nuclear fuel and increased its number of installed centrifuges to 7,200 (June 5, 2009) [My emphasis]*

157. ...it :]the IAEA report] said, was information uncovered on Syria's procurement of "a large quantity of graphite," a material that American intelligence officials have said was central to the reactor's operation. (June 5, 2009) [My emphasis]

However, there are also other cases, in which other experts' voice can be heard.

158. Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, a research organization in Washington, said Iran's 7,200 centrifuges, if suitably arranged, could annually produce enough nuclear fuel for up to two bombs. "The facts on the ground continue to change," he said in an interview, "and not in our favor." (June 5, 2009) [My emphasis]

But the Iran's share of the expert voice is just limited to two cases in one of them Saeed Leylaz a political analyst has got a voice and by the other one the director of Iranian studies at an

American university is given a time to speak. Saeed Leylaz is known as a government opposition who recently was convicted to nine years in prison (NYT, December 2, 2009) and Abbas Milani at least, does not speak for Iranian government.

159. An Iranian political analyst, Saeed Leylaz, said the comments did not amount to an all-out rejection of better ties with the administration. Iran's hard-line leaders need to publicly maintain some degree of anti-The United States rhetoric to bolster their own position, he said. "Iran's ruling Islamic establishment needs to lessen tensions with the U.S. and at the same time maintain a controlled animosity with Washington," he said.
[My emphasis]

160. "They sense that Obama is serious in trying a new track," said Abbas Milani, director of Iranian studies at Stanford University. (April 8, 2009) [My emphasis]

According to van Dijk (1988b, p. 136) "The use of communicative verbs in clauses that dominate embedded content clauses used in indirect discourse, sometimes express the evaluation of the reporter about the content of the speaker :[for example the usage of verb criticize in this example]" He criticized X by saying that...". The only cases of occurrence of these verbs can be seen in some quotation cases in the data. The communicative verbs used for Iran regularly demonstrate a sense of defiance that can imply that Iran is careless about the international requests. For example, using the verb *urged* or *promised* in the following examples shows that how much Iran is determined to insist on its demand in the fields of international affairs or atomic policy. Both of these fields are considered to be problematic to westerns since the earlier one refers to its diplomatic problem with the United States and about the later one, it is said that is cover for clandestine nuclear-weapon making.

*161. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad **urged** America on Wednesday to apologize for its actions toward his country over the past 60 years and said it was unclear whether the new administration was merely shifting tactics or wanted real change. (January 29, 2009)* [My emphasis]

*162. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran **promised** on Sunday that he would make "public as soon as possible" his country's response to an Obama administration offer*

of talks with Iran and other nations about Tehran's nuclear program (April 26, 2009)
[My emphasis]

However, the communicative verbs quoting the Americans mostly contains a notion of higher position. For example using the verb of *offered up* connotes that sense and *add the caveat* and *cautioned* resemble power and authority for the side that behave in such a way. Van Dijk points to indirectness of quoting while using these communicative verbs, but I believe that the main subject is the question of choosing among some choices. These different choices can be used in the same positions and the question of using one of them and leaving the others can contain a special semantic meaning for the analyzers and addressees, whether the quotation is indirect or direct.

*163. Over the weekend Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. **offered up the warning** that Mr. Obama sidestepped on Monday night .If Iran stays on its current course, sanctions will intensify. The subtext of the Israeli election has been even clearer... (February 10, 2009)*

*164. In public, Mr. Obama is talking only about the first scenario. On Monday evening, he talked about "looking for areas where we can have constructive dialogue, where we can engage directly with them," and said he was looking for "diplomatic overtures." But **he cautioned** that "there's been a lot of mistrust built up over the years," and that after thirty years of a deep freeze, openings are "not going to happen overnight." (February 10, 2009) [My emphasis]*

*165. Mr. Obama quickly **added the caveat** that Iran should know that "we find the funding of terrorist organizations unacceptable" and that "a nuclear Iran could set off a nuclear arms race in the region that would be profoundly destabilizing." (February 10, 2009) [My emphasis]*

Chapter 5

Discussion and Conclusion

5-1 Answering the research questions

- *What kind of relationships does exist between the lexical choices and social-cultural attitude?*

Possibly, it was more appropriate to generalize this question, by asking, and then speaking about all of the components of a CDA rather than just to speak about lexical choices.

Although according to what I am going to discuss in the later parts of the study as a CDA these components hardly are separable and it is better to look at them as a whole. Lexical choices as one of micro-analytical notions, plays a very important role in constructing the (desired) meaning of the text and to establish the various kinds of possible understandings of it. In other words as van Dijk believes these micro-level notions can direct the text to macro-level implications that helps to wider vision of the circumstance of power (re)production and other related subjects.

As it was shown in the data analysis chapter and within the part related to the lexical choices, this analytical component has been frequently used by *NYT* to paint a picture of Iran in which It seems to be dangerous and powerful, careless about international demands and thirsty to satisfy its temptation to have a nuclear weapon to use it against the United States and its allies especially Israel. For example in the following instance

1. *...head of the Atomic Organization, 'brushed off' the demands that Iran suspend enriching uranium (November 26, 2008)*

Using the lexical choices – using the verb *brush off* instead of all of the possible-to-use verbs– the newspaper represents such image of Iran through emphasizing the improper answer of Iran atomic agency chief to the demand of the United States and the westerns to suspend its atomic activities. Another frequently repeated sentence of this period is a remark that implies that Iranians say their nuclear activities are clean but international society

believes or insists that Iranians are wrong. This has been exemplified in the previous pages but here are some examples

2. ... *it [Iran] 'says' is for energy production but the West 'fears' is intended to produce weapons (November 26, 2008)*
3. ... *Tehran 'describes' as peaceful, but ... the West 'believes' is not (January 11, 2008)*

There are many other examples, which are written about the way that lexical choices or other processes within CDA try to make that image and represent Iran in the described way. The point here is not that whether the real image of Iran is adopted to the image that *NYT* draws of Iran. Not the main point here is that whether Iran is bad or not, these processes of CDA show it in this way and if occasionally, we accept that all of what the newspaper writes about Iran is true and the medium treats Iran case fairly, still, in other places and situation they can be used improperly and dishonestly.

As already mentioned it is possible to say that these CDA processes can be used to establish a macro level of analysis out of the touchable micro level analysis of the contexts that accidentally these processes happen to be the main components to understand and realize what is going on. It means that we can find out about the relation between the groups and institutes out of the nature of relations that exists within the context. *NYT* as a newspaper is a part of another huge system of propaganda, which can have effect or can be affected by other items. The discussion on the subject that what kinds of item affect the media and what kinds of item are affected by that is so extended and I do not want to go through it¹. However, the common thing about almost all of the people who have written something about this issue in the field of CDA is that the question of power is very vital (van Dijk, 1989; van Dijk, 1996).

The relation of media and power is a bilateral relation, either in the way that the people who have power can dominate or determine the direction of media or in the opposite way, the media can function as a source of power through affecting the moralities of the society or through determining the major issues and subjects for the people to think about. The just thing is called power reproduction (Fairclough, 2005b; van Dijk, 1996). Richardson regarding the effect of power on the media writes

¹ Although they have been discussed in chapter two, under Fairclough section

Journalism is a powerful genre of communication which, through employing argumentation ...can help organize people understanding of the world. Power institution in this case governments, the military and the rest of security states, wants to use journalism to promote their vision of the war to the world and hence to shape the behavior of public in their favor. (2007, p.81)

I believe that like all of what has already been mentioned, here, the main question of these data and the main motivation for what happens and what makes changes is the question of power and dominance. It means there is some sort of correspondence between the United States' foreign approaches toward the international issues –in this case Iran– and the taken approach of the newspaper either in the first period or in the second period. In the first period the approach of the government toward Iran is an aggressive one and in continuing of the preemption policy which had been applied after September 11, 2001. According to this policy the United States should prevent the threats and dangers to its territory or interest all over the world even before they find a chance to exist (seal of the president of the United States of America, 2006). Based on such policy, Bush and Blair decided to attack Saddam Hussein of Iraq in 2003 since they believed that Saddam had chemical weapons which could be a potential threat not only to the interests of the United States and Britain but also to the entire international community too (Eland, 2002; Mackay, 2003). The same story is relevant to Iran; while these countries and their western allies believed that Iran is conducting a secret nuclear program, according to the American policy it was necessary to prevent it. Therefore, the premier mission was to demonstrate Iran in a way as if it is seeking nuclear weapons and progressing in such a program. The other major matter is to show Iran as a danger to other countries and to show Iran as a careless country to international demands. It is natural that the very question of possessing nuclear weapons cannot be a proof to be bad or to be a danger in the near or far future, but the main threats rise when one has such a power and at the same time it is a member of the axis of evil (NYT, March 21, 2009). As a proof, Pakistan can be a good example that while it was not a member of NPT, it made a nuclear bomb but still it is supported by the United States and receives major financial aids form this country (Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs of department of state, 2009). The role played by *NYT* exactly fulfills these instances. Let us have a glance on the main theme of the lexical choices in Bush period

1. The Iranian-Israeli relations

2. Western doubt and skepticism about Iran's nuclear activities
3. Iran's untrustworthy expressions and claims and unreliable behaviors
4. Iran's wry response to the world
5. Authenticating Iranian opposition groups and government's adversaries

All of these categories can be classified again within these two major classes. First group of them represents Iran's nuclear activities and the fact that these activities are clandestine and covered and the other major group represents Iran as a country that can be a danger. Theme number 2 is the reflex of the Iran's nuclear program and the issue that they are clandestine. It speaks about the wariness and skepticism of westerns about Iran's nuclear activities that by itself can be a sign of this issue that they think something is wrong with Iran's nuclear activities and *NYT* strengthens this doubt using theme number three where Iran is represented as an untrustworthy country that easily and constantly is belying about everything even its achievements. By the other side through retelling Iran's conflicts with other groups and institutes *NYT* clearly represents a dangerous image of Iran. One of the greatest conflicts here is with Israel, the most important ally of the United States all over the world. There is a strong stress on the threat of Iran for Israel. It can be one of the main pieces of the puzzle of Iran's danger to the United States and the West. Iran also is a threat to its people according to *NYT* because many cases in which Iran ignores the human rights of its citizens, have exemplified the in fifth theme. As a simple logical reasoning, one may ask that how Iran can show responsibility in relation to the international society when it does not show that in relation to its citizens. The theme of Iran's irresponsibility in relation to other countries is intensified using the examples of theme number 4 where Iran is represented in these instances as a country that stands against the international society and its demands and is disrespectful to that. However, in the later period there is a little change in the policy of U.S government as the result of presidency of Barrack Obama in the United States who believed that American should engage Iran in negotiations and persuade it to show respect to the international demands and play a positive role as a responsible actor of the international scene. Though when United States tries to open the gates of negotiations, firstly, it should be emphasized that it is not because of its weakness rather it is a long-hold policy of the United States of America that helps to develop the democracy and consequently the peace all over the world. The second matter is that although Iran still is a danger to the United States and its allies but there are some signs of change in its behaviour that to some extent demonstrates that Iran

deserves such negotiations. Has *NYT* moved in the same direction? To find out the answer it is better to have a glance on the major themes of Obama time too.

1. Obstacles caused by Iran in mutual relationships with The United States
2. Soft positions of The United States
3. Two countries appetite for change
4. America's higher position
5. Iran's nuclear ambition and international fear about Iran's activities
6. Iran's heedlessness to international demand about its nuclear program
7. Iran's untrustworthy expressions and claims and unreliable behaviors
8. Authenticating Iranian opposition groups and government's adversaries
9. The Iranian-Israeli relations

The first major point regarding the themes of this period is the verity of the themes. By itself, it can show that in this period, the subjects for speaking are so various and cover more expanding area of issues and it can also show this fact that various matters are represented to be spoken. In this period, Iran is not looked at just as an enemy country rather the vision that introduces or speaks about Iran looks at it in the way that Iran is foreign country, which we (the United States) have some problems with and should finally resolve them preferably through a peaceful and diplomatic way. However, we are the protagonist and they are the antagonist of the story. The first theme majorly deals with this subject and there are some shadows in other cases like those in number 3, which anyhow give a conception of Iran as a normal foreign country. Although in both of these themes and especially in the first one, the dominant attitude toward Iran is a negative one. Other major classification will contain those themes that put an emphasis on the soft position of the United States and on the position taken by Iran, which mostly has been described to be an inflexible one that despite the will of America for peace tries to solve the problems in another way that logically is the way of war. This classification contains themes number 2 and 3 and to some extent, it can be seen in the first one. *NYT* intensifies the point through the fourth theme when it stresses the higher position of the United States in comparison with Iran the country which however is in the lower position but does not seem to be so prepared for that or at least seems not to be so eager for peace talk. The negative representation of Iran continues in the same way that it used to be in the Bush time but the frequencies are not as much as the previous period. *NYT* in this period, just like the previous one, believes that Iran is seeking its nuclear ambitions and according to that, if there is any negotiation it should direct to stop Iran what Bush's policies

could not do. Regarding the human rights, still Iran faces great questions and beside that Iran is a great danger to Israel existence. In the new period, Iranians are represented to be untrustworthy and unreliable country that always is whiffing about anything even its achievements. All in all one can answer that question of the beginning of this part in this way that yes, there is a correlation between the change in the policy of the government as an institute of power production with the change in the language of the this newspaper as the (re)producer of power.

- *How are Halliday's three metafunctions represented in the text? And what kind of relationships does exist between Halliday's three metafunctions and mentioned attitudes?*

As it has been mentioned before according to SFG, three main metafunctions help the language user to convey the meaning or perform other functional aspects of the language. Two of these metafunctions are related to inner and outer relations of the speaker and the other one is related to that function of the sentence and prepares the organization of the sentence or generally the text to contain such functions and meanings. All of these metafunctions systematically and structurally are simultaneous (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004).

Interpersonal metafunction concerns with the relation between addresser and addressee and its main instrument to set up such a relation is called mood. Ideational metafunctions deals with the manifestation of internal ideas and thoughts and all in all the experiences. The main instrument of the ideational metafunction is the transitivity system. The job of constructing the main structure of the sentence goes to the textual metafunctions whose main intent is the theme system. According to this, textual metafunction deals with the internal structure of the sentence which can act as a guide for the listener to interpret the speaker's main ideas, while the previous two metafunctions usually act as extra-linguistics phenomena which are social world (interpersonal metafunction) or natural world (ideational metafunction). There is another important point about these metafunctions and the point is that these metafunctions are abstract notions which can be used to describe the different aspects of language but their manifestation within the language is realized through their grammatical systems and in the same way, the analysis of this metafunctions entails the investigation of these system;

consequently in this question mood and transitivity systems will be discussed and in the next question the other remained one, theme system will be investigated.

The major grammatical system of the interpersonal metafunction is the mood system. As it has been discussed in chapter two there are four major text moods for initiating an interaction and eight major strategies to answer it dependant on the acceptance or rejecting the initiator moods. Mood system actually determines and provides the facilities for performing a conversation and the important point about the interpersonal metafunction is that it needs the interactional context to appear and to play the role. In other words as it can be inferred from above definitions and examples, the beginning of a mood function is from the point that the speaker uses one of the four mentioned strategies to interact with the person who is to speak and in the response the second speaker completes the interaction using one of the answering strategies; so in both of the cases the necessary condition for the mood system to exist is the presence of an interaction or dialogue context. However, in the surveyed data of this study there is no dialogue between this newspaper and another side for example another newspaper or may be an authority of the Islamic Republic. This study just set its aim to investigate the approach of an institute in two periods toward one issue in anticipation of revealing the differences between the viewpoints of the institute in these two periods. Therefore, no kind of dialogue or interaction is the subject of this study, as the result the interpersonal metafunction is not the subject of this study and cannot be investigated.

The main grammatical appearance of ideational metafunction is the transitivity system. In fact transitivity system is responsible for encoding the experiences and thoughts of the speaker and through this system the context of the text can be inferred. For example in the two following examples

- a. Alicia plays soccer
- b. Alicia says she plays soccer

The first example connotes a realistic, material context in which someone is playing football while in the next one the context mostly contains a narrative, verbal process. Actually the transitivity system contains two main types of information about the text, firstly the nature of the process that is going-by and secondly the circumstances and participants of the process. Through analyzing this information, it became clear that some structures and relationships

could be used to analyze the power relations. The kind of used process and the selected obligatory and optional participants, and the used circumstance(s) can reflect the special attitude, which is applied by the addresser or the writer. This special attitude is the reflection of the position of the writer/addresser in relation to the position of the subject, the participants and the reader/addressee; in the exact word, it illustrates the power relation between these groups and by this way, it is relevant to this study.

As it has been mentioned before in the period before Obama adjuration, the U.S government tries to show a terrifying image of Iran to justify any possible action of preemption in future. Therefore, it is important to see if the reaction of the newspaper is in the same direct with it. It is the only way that can illustrate if the relations of power institutes with each other are unilateral or not. The fact is that either in the first period of George W. Bush administration or the next period of first months of the Barrack Obama presidency, the policy of the newspaper is in the accordance with the policy of main power institution, the government. In the first period beside the fact that there are plenty cases of processes related to Iran which even in comparison with the United States cases is overtly significant, the nature of the processes mostly ascribe the roles of agent, sayer and other dynamic roles to Iran. Overall, these processes represent Iran as a very powerful and capable country. By means of another grammatical system, the thematic system, it intensifies the presentation and at the same time through word choosing, the selection of negative-meaning verbs, it paints a dark image of Iran. Whiles in the next period when the United States government is going to negotiate Iranians and the atmosphere is changed, *NYT* needs to tone down the language to shoe that Iran is not such a great danger for the United States and in the possible future negotiations America is dealing with Iranians form a superior position. Besides, Iran need not be represented as a dangerous country, which is a member of evil axes because the preemption policy of Bush administration is put away as a result of Obama's change policy, however, still it is an antagonist country who has nuclear ambitions and regularly ignores the human rights and international rules and demands. Therefore, in this period although still Iran possesses more cases of processes but it meaningfully has decreased in comparison with the processes which are ascribed to the United States and in comparison with previous period. Added to that, it should be mentioned that the nature of the processes has also changed a lot. In this period despite the previous period, no significant role can be ascribed to Iran because there is

not so much difference between this country's roles, but still there are major cases of using negative-meaning verbs and other processes that make a negative representation of Iran. It can be concluded that all of these matters serve the major policy of the United States government in this period.

- *What kind of relationships does exist between the thematic structure of the sentence and social-cultural attitude?*

Thematization is the main device of the textual metafunctions according to SFG. Actually, it provides the reader of the text with some clues to unlock and comprehend the writer's message in the process of text producing. Thematization helps to organize the structure of sentence within the interpersonal and ideational metafunctions. Actually, thematization does it through acting as a point of departure in the line time of producing a text. According to this view through decoding the location of this departure point, reader of text can recognize the message that the writer of text has produced. Regarding this notion Halliday and Matthiessen believe that 'The local environment, serving as point of departure, is the Theme; what is presented in this local environment is the Rheme. The clause as a message is thus a configuration of two thematic statuses, Theme + Rheme' (1997, p.21).

But according to them in the same book, the structure of the theme and rheme are various among different languages. In English it is distinguished through 'position in sequence' (ibid), which means that the importance of the text components is recognized by means of their position in the consequential consecutiveness of the items, here the phrases. In other words every phrase of the sentence, which is positioned in the previous position of the sentence, is more important and emphasized because it contains the new information in comparison with the later part of the sentence which just contains the old information. So consequently, the first part of the phrase in any sentence is counted as the theme of the sentence and the rest of the sentence is recognized as the rheme of the sentence.

This position of the rheme and the theme can leads in an important ideological discussion regarding the structure of the text and in the same manner, the various possible usages of the phrases in the same text can direct us to consider about the relations which can exist between the thematization and topicalization of the phrases and the consequent illusions to the question of the power as a cognitive notion because the question of thematization is related to

the position of phrases in the sentence and the nature of the information that they contain and convey. This division in the kind of these information leads to obtain two major groups of information :the foregrounded and backgrounded and these notions by themselves are cognitive notions (van Dijk, 1995b). It is also possible to take it for granted that because of the lack of the space or time or because of the ideological reasons, news always leaves some matters unsaid and these vacuum can be fulfilled by means of taken-for-granted facts and generalizations or they are inferred from the text and interpretation of the sequence of the phrases in the text (van Dijk, 1988b). According to van Dijk, it is possible to make some changes in the thematic structure to emphasize or de-emphasize some phrases of the sentence and these changes can take place by the people who are in contact with the power resources (2006a). He believes that these changes in the thematic structure of the text can be the result of some different motivations. The first one is to conceal or de-emphasize the negative point of ingroup or to stress and emphasize its positive points. The next one is to emphasize the negative point of the outgroup or de-emphasizing its negative one (1995i). He adds

Topics or semantic macropropositions of discourse subjectively define the information in a discourse that speakers find the most relevant or important. This means that topicalization may also be subject to ideological management. Ingroup speakers may be expected to detopicalized information that is inconsistent with their interests or positive self-image and conversely they will topicalize information that emphasizes negative outgroup properties. (1995ii, p. 27)

Both kinds of de-emphasizing – either for the outgroups or for the ingroups – are possible through moving the agency of these groups away from the beginning part of the sentence. In the following examples, in 1 the positive action of Iran (outgroup) is de-emphasized by detopicalizing the phrase which is in relation with Iran's agency. The next example de-emphasizes the action of the United States (ingroup) through detopicalizing it. In the opposite side, both of the emphasizing cases are possible through moving the agents to the initial part of the sentence. In number 3, Iran as the agent of negative-meaning action of execution is topicalized to be stressed and in the next one in 4 the positive-meaning action of Obama is topicalized to be emphasized.

4. *In Turnabout, Iran Releases U.S. Journalist (May 11, 2009)*

5. *On Iran, Obama Plans Talk and Some Toughness (February 3, 2009)*

6. *Iran hangs 22 in executions this week (January 22, 2009)*

7. *After Obama Overture, Iran's Leader Seeks U.S. Apology (January 29, 2009)*

The practical investigation of the thematic structures of the two periods of Bush and Obama administration reveals that in the first period mostly Iran is topicalized. While the cases related to the United States are so rare and all in all it is so hard to have a conclusion regarding the role of the United States in this period, however in its rare appearances in this period, the United States' negative-meaning action has been de-emphasized through topicalizing Iran as the sayer of an accusation instead of America as the agent of the process of overthrowing a legal –although enemy– foreign government. In the other case although America is the doer of positive-meaning process of talk but either because of the importance of the interview done by President Obama or as a result of the fact that *NYT* wants to de-emphasize the President Obama's decision for negotiation with Iran, the United States has not been topicalized rather instead of that, *in the interview* has been topicalized. As an interpretation it is possible to say that foregrounding the importance of Iran as an outgroup can be understood as an attempt to signalizing the role of Iran as the enemy of west and a great danger to it. It can be more obvious when one tries to analyze the nature of the process attributed to Iran in this period. Most of these process contain a negative point about Iran which can be related to different issues from the nuclear crisis and the threat of an atomic Iran to the cases of ignoring human rights by the government under the title of resisting the aliens plans to overthrowing the government or stopping the effort of other governments' spies to transfer the information, etc. Regarding the above categorization, it can be said that these cases of topicalization and this structure of thematization mostly is related to emphasizing the others (outgroups) negative points. Iran is emphasized to be an evil country and this illusion becomes stronger and more exemplified through different cases of topicalization, in which Iran as the agent or sometimes as the sayer of negative-meaning action has been topicalized and has positioned at the beginning of the sentence. This is a clue for the reader of the text to consider Iran, as the container of the new fore grounded information and this matter by itself results in a cognitive conclusion that Iran is most emphasized element of the text and consequently it deserve to be given the most attention or focus. This leads the reader to give

one's most attention to the bad and negative-meaning action like execution, imprisoning and having nuclear fuel for one weapon that have been ascribed to Tehran.

However, in the next period everything changes. Although still, there are many cases, in which Iran is the topic of the sentence but in comparison with the previous period, a great decrease is obvious. It seems that, the importance of Iran as an enemy has decreased and *NYT* does not count it as such great threat of the first period. The other point about Iran is that it is not only the topic of negative-meaning processes but at least in one case Iran is the theme of a process in which it is the agent of a positive process of offering dialogue. Despite the fact that the positive point of the out-group has been emphasized, in other cases where Iran is topic of the sentence it is the agent or the sayer of the negative-meaning processes. There is one case of de-emphasizing the positive point of Iran through topicalizing the phrase of *in turnabout* in the way that was alluded to in example number 1 and in another case Iran is topicalized in a process, in which the United States is the agent and by means of this the patient role of Iran is emphasized. However, in the same period the America's presence is more colorful and powerful than the previous one. Most of the time the U.S. is the agent of a positive-meaning process and through topicalization, this positive role is stressed more. The next point about this period is that there are some cases of other topics that typically are the voices of freedom, and human rights, which are aroused from Iran's government adversaries. Overall, in the second period along with the fact that *NYT* represents more peaceful and humanistic image of the United States, discolors the threat of Iran as a powerful enemy of America and characterizes the United States in a more powerful position before the future negotiations between two countries. At the same time prepares the addressees to accept Iran as a less powerful enemy or even foreign state to legitimate the decision of administration to talk with Iran. It is obvious that either in the first period when the preemption policy of the neo-republicans needs to inflate the danger of Iran to legitimate the possible attack to the country or in the later period when the change policy of democrats offers talk with Iran and needs to show Iran as a country without the capability to damage the United States or its interests, the policy taken and applied by *NYT* in choosing the topics has been in the same direction with the one of society's most important power institute which is the U.S administration.

- *In which way the processes of generalization and overlexicalization have served the manipulation process?*

The major point about this question is that there is a presupposition within it according to which the newspaper has manipulated its addressees, so first it should be investigated whether someone has manipulated others or not. According to van Dijk, manipulation is intentional and willful (2006a) and beside that it mentions some other factors and characteristics to consider something as an instance of manipulation. He continues

...manipulation as intended here is a communicative and interactional practice, in which a manipulator exercises control over other people, usually against their will or against their best interests. In everyday usage, the concept of manipulation has negative associations – manipulation is bad – because such a practice violates social norms. (p. 360)

In the later part van Dijk explains how three various kinds of manipulation affect the addressee's understanding of the discourse e.g. the meaning of texts, etc. (short term manipulation), addressee's attitudes and approaches (long term manipulation) and the manipulation which constructs social views and visions (social cognition manipulation). So according to this a case of manipulation abuses the power to propagandize a special view of it, which is not parallel to best interest of the addressees. As a result, first it should be discussed if a case of abusing the power has occurred or not? Then it should be investigated is the abused process is in the same line with the best interests of the addressees, if there is any case of power abusing.

The fact is that what happens in the headlines and news stories, as *NYT*'s approach to the Iran issues, just contains the media's vision about Iran and it hardly can be investigated if any kind of power abusing has happened or not. The truth is that in both of these periods the general policy of *NYT* is in same direction with the interests and policies of the United States government, as it has been shown in many cases. Consequently, the newspaper represents a negative image of Iran, which in the first period is so much dangerous, but in the second one, it is a little more moderate. Besides that, rarely there is a positive representation of Iran and all of what is represented is Iran's danger to the United States and international community, its nuclear activities and ignoring human rights and not what that Iran may have probably done as a responsible country. Even apart from the government, something positive about Iran cannot be found. Here two different conclusions are possible; according to the first one,

the fact that *NYT* ignores Iran's positive points is the result of its approach to draw a negative and dark image of Iran to prepare the addressee for the future reaction of the United States government against it. The second interpretation says that it just happened because the newspaper is just interested in the political issues related to Iran and considering this field, it has gone through every related topic. However, the problem is that since Iran is against the will of the West and the United States and in a permanent conflict with them all over the past thirty years, all of what happens is arranged in a way that the newspaper, because of natural process, represents Iran in this way. The truth is that the first possibility seems to be more probable since hardly one can find any positive thing either in the sampled data or in the whole of other news stories related to Iran in this period. So according to this paragraph *NYT* has represented Iran in a way that doesn't seem to be entirely true and in the way that it suggests that the newspaper treats the question in accordance with general will of power institutes like government or at least in relation to its interests.

The next matter that should be investigated is that whether all of these are against the (best) interests of its addressees who are the American people or not. If the special representation of Iran in the newspaper is in complete accordance with the reality and when there is some doubt about the reason behind this representation, it is possible to conclude that in the condition, which, the representation is against the interests of the addressees and is in accordance with the interest of the media there is a case of manipulation otherwise it is a subjective conclusion to declare a special kind of phenomenon as the manipulation. On the other side it is so hard to interpret if the interest of the media which is in the same direction with the interests of the government as the representative of country's population is for or against the interests of the American people (the addressees). Actually, it needs a great deal of political knowledge and even after that, it is just a matter of interpretation and next to it, that is not the subject of this linguistical study. As a conclusion, it can be said that there are not enough proves for the case to be accepted as a matter of manipulation.

The next question will be malapropos to be discussed for investigation because of the rejecting the supposed presupposition but still there is a point about it. Overlexicalization and generalization are two notions, which mostly are related to study the minorities within the society, and they are not so useful devices for analyzing the international relationships. CDA

just as every other scientific field has its own devices for analyzing and interpreting various texts and discourses and like every other place, every device has its own benefit and use.

Overlexicalization is to make marked a socially accepted notion using delivering extra information about that (Teo, 2000); for example through using the adjective female in the phrase of *female president* the president which mostly is accepted to be a male is marked.

Generally, it can be categorized under the term of overcompleteness because anyhow an unmarked lexicon is overcompleted here but it is a special kind that can easily be used for different illusion to minorities in the media and to analyze motivation behind it.

Generalization, even more than overlexicalization is specialized for analyzing the minority groups. According to Teo generalization is to generalize a character or a specification of a member of a group to all of that group (2000), a notion which is often used when the bad behavior of one or some members of a minority group is generalized to all members of that group and consequently that group will be introduced responsible for a lot of the problems of the majority group of the society.

As a conclusion, it can be said that what is going on here, cannot be counted as a clear-cut example of manipulation but if there was a case of manipulation the defined devices of overlexicalization and generalization could not be used to analyze the international processes rather they mostly are used as specialized instruments for analyzing the relation between the major and minor groups of the society. Among these two notions, the earlier has more affinity to have a common ground in both of the fields (international and minority groups analysis).

5-2 How Iran and America are represented in these periods?

In this section I am going to have a conclusion on the base of the data and data analysis of this study and to have the final vision of the drawn image of the two countries, mostly Iran, because the main orientation of the study is toward finding out the place and condition of Iran in the analysis of *NYT* in these periods but the situation of the United States as the origin country of the media and the opposite side of most of the quarrels with Iran seems to be very important.

5-2-1 before Obama

Just since the Islamic revolution, Iran and the United States have been in severe conflict with each other over different matters. Protecting the Pahlavi regime, aiding Iraq in its war against Iran, attacking Iran passenger airplane and trying to overthrow the Islamic regime of Iran are the accusations made by Iran against the United States. By the other side, the United States government is angry about what happened in November 1979 where its employees of embassy in Tehran have been taken hostages for more than one year and it is always complaining about Iran threat to Israel and Iran's protection of the terrorism. However, there are some ups and down in this relations. It has been said that Iran has helped the international coalition in their mission for overthrowing the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan (Ghosh, 2009) and in a period in Clinton time there was a good atmosphere in the relations between two countries. Nevertheless, just after 9/11 the United States government and clearly ex-President Bush called Iran a member of axis of evil and frequently threatened it to a military attack just like what happened in Iraq. Bush administration recurrently accused Iran of trying to gain a nuclear weapon and concealing its nuclear program and deceiving the international community. Besides that, the other common problem with Iran from the American viewpoint is the question of human rights that Iran is always ignoring it. All of these ideas have a reflection in the language of *NYT* in this period. Iran of this period is a contumacious Iran who has no respect for international laws and its people, since it does not respect their basic human rights. It is always seeking its nuclear ambition and does not recognize any limitation. It is very active and energized with a lot of capability to do bad endeavors against the United States. By the other side in this period the United States although is shown as a powerful country whose behavior is positive and tends to protect the interests of the Americans and even international society and in a higher rank the interests of the Iranians. Nevertheless, it is not so active in this period and mostly the news related to the relations of these two countries concentrates on the Iranian side; beside that, this inactive representation of the United States helps the media to construct its favorite image of Iran. Therefore, it can be said that the image that *NYT* has drawn of the Iran in this period is parallel to the policy of the U.S government.

5-2-2 after Obama

Obama's main point in his campaigning for the presidential election of 2008 was his unlimited plan to change the country. This change was to contain every aspect of the government policy from the internal affairs like the public insurance to the foreign affairs like the America's function in Iraq and Afghanistan and the international relationships. *NYT* as a sympathizer newspaper of Obama in his election campaign and a stuck for his policies and program in later time, it has had the same line with the President Obama after he was elected the president². This similarity covers a vast area of ideas among them the question of relation with Iran although *NYT* is more conservative about Iran than what President Obama is. While the U.S government tries to change its relation with Iran and solve every problem at the negotiation table and to decrease the tension between two countries through treating more moderately to the nuclear case of Iran, *NYT* also shows the same representation through using moderate language about Iran. In this period, there are many themes to be spoken about Iran and some tendencies for peace by Iranian side can be observed in *NYT*'s reports. Still Iran is counted to be problematic. Even then, Iran has been described to be passionate to develop a nuclear program, to be a danger for Israel existence, a protector of terrorist groups and has been identified as a country, which ignores human rights. All of these instances coincident with representing Iran as less dangerous to America give to hand a perception of this country, which is synonym to evilness. In fact, the represented picture of Iran in this period most of the time directs to decrease the position of this country in comparison with the United States, which is more active in this time and has a more moderate and peaceful face. Again, in this period like the previous one, the language of *NYT* is parallel to the main policies of the government and even it has a more conservative approach to Iran than the democrat administration of President Obama.

² CNN Evening News for Monday, July 21, 2008 available from

<http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/program.pl?ID=899271> Program Time :09:34:20 pm -09:42:00 pm. Duration : 07:40 Reporters :Cooper, Anderson; Kaye, Randi

5-3 The specification of this study

One of the major accepted facts in the methods of analyzing the data in CDA approach to a text is that the minorities – the powerless people who do not access to media– generally are heard rarely and the number of cases that are devoted to them to be quoted, directly and indirectly, is so much restricted. Emphasizing this view, van Dijk writes, “It’s not surprising, therefore, that ethnic minorities are constantly less quoted than majority group member and institutions. Even on subjects, such as the experiences of racial attacks and prejudices, on which the minorities are experts.” (1991, p. 246). Regularly it is because of the fact that this people due to their distance from the conducting the media, mostly are censored, their opinions are ignored and in general the ongoing processes of text producing results in the reproduction of power for the majority that in turn reasonably leads in the disempowerment of the minority (van Dijk, 1991). This notion of less cases of quoting for minorities is also mentioned in other places in another piece of writing Peter Teo insists on this view and believes that “Thus it is hardly surprising that one of the properties of racism in the press, according to van Dijk, is that minorities are largely salient and hardly quoted or quoted with suspicion or distance in newspaper reporting”. (2000, p. 18).

The other major notion of the terminology of CDA is the notion of OTHER versus the notion of the US. Van Dijk writes, “The justification of inequality involves two complementary strategies, namely the positive representation of the own group, and the negative representation of the others” (1993b, p. 263). In other words the groups with which we are in common feeling, attitudes and interests are own groups or *us* and those groups which have no affiliation with us or they do not possess common beliefs or interests like what we have, are *others*. The dominant question of such relations is the question of power and dominancy, *our groups* (ingroups) always are represented as good one and through a positive imagery and in the other side *other groups* (outgroups) are represented with all their bad deeds and their negative imagery. These kind of relations prepare a suitable base for the dominancy of *us* through producing and reproducing the power for the *us* which in turn takes place by affecting, forming and directing the feeling, morality and thinking lines of the society to accept some special groups – *us*– as good and the *others* as bad or at least no good as much as *us*. Van Dijk alluding to the point writes, “As is the case for institutional members, members

of dominant groups may derive their individually exercised power from the overall power of the group they belong to” (1989, p. 29).

The minority groups actually can be categorized as a class of various groups of *others* who are in other pole of *us/other* binary. Actually, they have the every characteristic of such groups. We are not in common understanding and attitude with them. They are totally different and incomprehensive (Teo, 2000) and by the other side, most of the time they are responsible for a lot of the cases of violence in the society (Leudar, Marsland and Vapil, 2004; Achugar, 2004; Edwards, 2004; Mazid, 2008; van Dijk 1991). Of course, there is a possibility for some *other* groups not to be counted as the minorities groups such as when media are speaking about a foreign country, which is not a friend of the media’s own state. But regarding the similarities between the these groups and their roles as the opposite group of us, it’s possible to say that the same process of powering or disempowering relations are relevant to both of these groups among which the quotation pattern can be mentioned. For example, it is possible to say that the same rules and generalizations made about the cases of quotation and the quality of them in relation to minority groups are relevant to the *other* groups. Although they probably cannot be defined in the frame of minority groups of the society, however since as mentioned both of them represent the same qualities in relation to the effects that those groups can create in majority or *our* societies.

At least regarding this study, it is the case. It is obvious that for *NYT* Iran, and its people and government are foreign groups, which do not show positive interaction signals, and most of the time in every case Iran’s government is counted as enemy of the United States’ interest worldwide and in the Middle East especially, as has been described before. Nevertheless, the cases of quotation of Iranians and Iranian authorities in both periods are so higher in comparison with the cases devoted to the United States and all of western countries – 46 times for Iran in comparison with 14 times for America and 29 versus 31 respectively in the second period– which still is so remarkable. It is obvious that *NYT* does not intend to represent Iran as a majority group and as the result of logical equation to put its own country in the position of a minority group. The interpretations inferred from the data also are for this idea that in both of the drawn image of Iran there is not such a brilliant image that deserves an admirable side of a binary conflicts, a fact that proves Iran cannot be regarded the protagonist

of this medium either in the first period or in the second one. So what is behind this signalizing the role?

My answer to this question is that the process of quotations and voices during these periods are not processes to represent Iran as a silent minority or outgroup in total current of the text of newspaper. Rather it is used to signalize the Iran as powerful country, which uses its power to damage the other countries interests – including the interests of the America's government– and to play the role of an antagonist in the international relationships. Actually, *NYT* does this through using other processes like lexical choice or overcompleteness simultaneously with this process. As the examples in the first period show, from the viewpoint of voicing Iran is so much superior to its counterpart, America. Most of the cases in a way represent Iran as the country, which either is ignoring the human rights or is in the middle of tricky endeavor to gain the nuclear power and all of it is possible through using other processes as like what were mentioned above.

The main point here is not that quotation patterns cannot represent the positive or negative meaning but it is that either this possibility for this pattern is so restricted or it is not used here to show that one of the sides are good or bad. As it has been mentioned before, through using some special kind of communicative verbs or some other ways it is possible to represent a special kind of negative or positive image of a person, group or any other player of discourse. Although still it can be counted as a form of lexical choice since, there is the question of choice among various possible verbs, which can be used in that place. Nevertheless, in comparison with other fields of analysis, especially overcompleteness and lexical choices cases, it reflects fewer possibilities. By the other side it can be counted as a matter of fact that these last two fields possess more various possibilities to serve the purpose since the overcompleting cases give the writer an opportunity to use an nearly unlimited chain of words to give extra explanation about the subject in any way that it wants. And lexical choices on the other hand, provide the text producer with the possibility to use various range of the words instead of a special word while most of the time painting a dark or a clear picture of somebody through the quotation cases is possible by choosing among a restricted class of words that are the verbs, and still among them from a more limited group, communicative verbs (van Dijk, 1988b).

To put all of these matters together, it is possible to say that these four fields of analysis can be categorized according to a scale that by one of its extremes it has an absolute possibility of representing the subject as powerful or weak and by its other extreme it has a possibility to characterize the subjects as good or bad. It is clear that none of these four fields of analysis can stand on the one of these extremes and their place must be placed somewhere in the middle on scale axis. It is also obvious that some fields like voices and quotation and naming that contain more restricted method to signify something to be good or to be bad are nearer to the *importance-image* extreme of the axis and the other fields like overcompleteness and lexical choices are more close to the *temperament-image* extreme of that. Of course one can still make other categorization among the two parts but I believe that it doesn't serve so much to the main topic of this discussion.

Naming processes although can mirror some characteristics of temperament-image processes but they act so restricted in this field because their major way of doing that is through using full formal names with all of the needed honorifics or vice versa by means of using some incomplete and informal titles, which contains some pejorative illustrations (Sheyholislami, 2001). On the other hand the frequency of naming processes for an item within a text simply reflects the importance of it just in a similar way that the frequency of quotation process for that item would do on the base of this reasoning that the more the cases of these processes for an item exist in a text the more the image of that item's presence will be brilliant and colorful and as a result, it will seem to be more active and relatively, more important. It finally results in a more powerful representation of the item.

So as a conclusion we can say that it's possible to signalize the presence of an item within the scene of a painting through naming and quoting processes and paint it in the proper way –the favorite way of text producer– by means of overcompleting and lexical choosing. Therefore, overall, it can be said that using these two qualities of these fields, four different kinds of images can come to hand (table 5-1). Powerful positive image that serves to create powerful, capable and safe image of *us*, powerful negative image that serves to create a dangerous and capable image of *them*, powerless positive image which serves to draw a suffered-wrong image of *us* who gets ready to achieve a right or a position and powerless negative image that

serves to exemplify other group as incapable and powerless and basically is used to strengthen the position of *us*.

But still this major question remains that considering all of these points why generally the minority groups have less voice in the media and are fewer quoted as like all of the indicated sources have mentioned it? It seems that media as the representatives of the majority groups don't want to show the minority as powerful and capable; it can occur as the result of so many reasons just like the media's fear of the majority to lose its superior position in relation with the minority or the will of majority to continue its control over the minority and to treat in any way that it desires because of some reasons like to have someone to ascribe the problems to her/him. Despite what most of the sources have mentioned, it does not seem to be a natural result of being a member of a minority that some people are quoted or named less than others but I believe they are quoted or named less because they are to be represented more powerless than some other people but whenever it necessitates despite the fact that they are the members of minority groups – as the members of other groups – these people can be represented more powerful and capable through more cases of naming and quoting. A colorful painting of the image of Iran in these data can be counted as a good example for it although as mentioned before Iran cannot be counted as a minority group to American society and just is an *other* group relatively, the similarity between these groups paves the way for generalizing the idea to the minority groups.

Table 5-1. various images resulted from importance-temperament scale

	+Importance-Image	– Importance-Image
+Temperament-Image	Positive Powerful	Positive Powerless
– Temperament-Image	Negative Powerful	Negative Powerless

The last point to be mentioned here is that this idea can be relevant to the analysis of SFG roles in the headlines in the similar way it is possible to apply it to CDA analysis fields. Here, it seems that the frequency of SFG processes and the kind of various SFG roles are the closer items to importance-image extreme of the axis and contextual semantic processes are the closer items to the other extreme of temperament-image extreme.

In that sense that the emphasis on the importance of subject can be gained by means of more times of mentioning the processes of that subject in the text and also through the nature of roles of various processes. On the other hand, by means of semantic contextual processes like word choice and overcompleteness, it is possible to create a negative or positive representation of that importance. According to that, some roles connote more important implications while the others do not. For example, the roles like agent of material processes, sayer of verbal processes beneficent of behavioral processes are taken to be more important while some other roles like the patient of material processes or the target of verbal processes do not resemble such a quality probability. This difference in the importance is because of the fact that, these roles represent more activation and positivity and this matter in the already-described manner leads in more importance. Therefore, generally it is possible to signalize the role of an item by means of using frequent cases of process for an item or by attributing it more important roles. It is also possible to draw a positive image of it through using special semantic processes and vice versa. Accordingly, just like the previous case of analyzing the full story, it is possible to have those four images of table 5-1 for what exists in transitivity grammar of SFG.

Appendices

News

- Today's Paper
 - World
 - Africa
 - Americas
 - Asia Pacific
 - Middle East
 - Europe
 - U.S.
 - Education
 - Education Life
 - Washington
 - New York Region
 - The City
 - Business
 - Media & Advertising
 - World Business
 - Your Money
 - DealBook
 - Markets
 - Company Research
 - Mutual Funds
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 - Sports
 - Baseball
 - Basketball, College
 - Basketball, Pro
 - Football, College
 - Football, Pro
 - Golf
 - Hockey
 - Other Sports
 - Soccer
 - Tennis
 - Corrections
- Opinion**
- Editorials/Op-Ed
- Features**
- Automobiles
 - Find New Cars
 - Find Used Cars
 - Car Reviews
 - Ownership and Buying Guide
 - Arts
 - Art & Design
 - Dance
 - Music
 - Television
 - Books
 - Sunday Book Review
 - Best Sellers
 - First Chapters
 - Movies
 - Current Releases
 - Coming Soon
 - Review Archive
 - DVD
 - Box Office
 - Showtimes & Tickets
 - Cartoons
 - Crosswords & Games
 - Bridge & Chess Columns
 - Theater
 - Current Shows: Broadway
 - Current Shows: Off Broadway
 - Current Shows: Off Off Broadway
 - Current Shows: London
 - Reviews
 - Hirschfeld Archive
 - Buy Tickets
 - Style

- Dining & Wine
 - Home & Garden
 - Fashion & Style
 - Weddings & Celebrations
 - Travel
 - New York City Guide
 - U.S. Guides
 - World Guides
 - Activities and Interests
 - Escapes
 - Deals & Booking
 - Magazine
 - Most Popular
 - Most E-Mailed
 - Most Blogged
 - Most Searched
 - Most Popular Movies
 - Multimedia
 - Video
 - Learning Network
 - Student Connections
 - Teacher Connections
 - Parent Connections
 - Week In Review
 - Job Market
 - Find a Job
 - Post a Resume
 - Job Search Tools
 - Post a Job
 - Employer Resources
 - Real Estate
 - For Sale
 - For Rent
 - Commercial
 - Luxury & Vacation
 - Mortgages & Services
 - My Alerts
 - Archive
 - Times File
 - Times Topics
 - My Times
- Services**
- Article Archive: 1851-1980
 - Article Archive: 1981-Present
 - Classifieds
 - College
 - Home Delivery - Order Now
 - Home Delivery - Customer Care
 - Theater Tickets
 - NYT Store
 - NYT Mobile
 - NYTimes.com RSS Feeds
 - About NYT Digital
 - Jobs at NYTDigital
 - Online Media Kit
 - Our Advertisers
 - Personals

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3. (October 9, 2008) Nuclear aid by Russian to Iranians suspected
4. (October 18, 2008) Documents say Iran aids militias from Iraq
5. (October 28, 2008) Iran opens naval base near routes for gulf oil
6. (November 6, 2008) In rare turn, Iran's leader sends letter to Obama
7. (November 10, 2008) Conservatives in Iran back Ahmadinejad
8. (November 12, 2008) Iran claims success in tests firing long-range missiles
9. (November 18, 2008) Iran Replaces Interior Minister After a Scandal
10. (November 19, 2008) Iran said to have nuclear fuel for one weapon
11. (November 21, 2008) Iranian ex-president says chief of atomic agency is unfair
12. (November 26, 2008) Iran raises its enriching capability
13. (December 4, 2008) Iran says rebels killed 16 soldiers
14. (December 21, 2008) Tehran says it's getting missiles
15. (December 29, 2008) Iranian authorities raid offices of rights advocate
16. (January 11, 2009) In interview, Obama talks of 'new approach' to Iran
17. (January 12, 2009) Iran gives Hamas enthusiastic support, but discreetly, just in case
18. (January 13, 2009) Iran says U.S. helped finance overthrow plot
19. (January 17, 2009) Iran imprisons 4 it had accused of rebellion
20. (January 19, 2009) Iran says it jailed 2 prominent doctors
21. (January 22, 2009) Iran hangs 22 in executions this week
22. (January 29, 2009) After Obama Overture, Iran's Leader Seeks U.S. Apology
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31. (April 20, 2009) **Iranian Calls Israel Racist at Meeting in Geneva**
32. (April 26, 2009) **Iran Preparing Response to Nuclear Talks Offer**
33. (April 27, 2009) **Reporter Jailed in Iran Passes Week on Fast**
34. (May 4, 2009) **Iranian Leader Is Scolded on Removal of Official**
35. (May 11, 2009) **In Turnabout, Iran Releases U.S. Journalist**
36. (May 14, 2009) **Netanyahu Asks Pope to Condemn Iran**
37. (May 15, 2009) **Oman Navigates Between Iran and Arab Nations**
38. (May 21, 2009) **Iran Test-Fires Missile With 1,200-Mile Range**
39. (May 25, 2009) **Support for Moderate a Challenge to Iran's Leader**
40. (June 5, 2009) **Iran Has Centrifuge Capacity for Nuclear Arms, Report Says**
41. (June 8, 2009) **Huge Campaign Rallies Snarl Tehran**

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**Faculty of Human Sciences
Department of English language and literature**

M.A. Thesis

**Change In Practice: A Critical Discourse Analysis of New York
Times' Approach Toward Iran, Before And After Obama**

Supervisor:

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چکیده

مطالعه حاضر به بررسی بازتاب ایران و رویدادهای مربوط به ایران در روزنامه آمریکایی نیویورک تایمز در دو دوره زمانی قبل و بعد از باراک اوباما می پردازد. در این راستا با استفاده از ابزارهای تحلیلی تحلیل کلام انتقادی و نیز دستور زبان نقش گرای هالیدی سرخط های خبری و متن خبرها مورد تجزیه و تحلیل قرار گرفته اند که نتایج این تحلیل حاکی از این است که همزمان با تغییر در سیاست های راهبردی دولت آمریکا در دو دوره ی قبل و بعد از اوباما ساختار زبانی روزنامه نیز دچار تغییر و تحول شده و در همان جهت سیاست های حکومتی شکل گرفته است. این مسئله گویای رابطه ی میان کانون های قدرت و رسانه ها ست و تأکیدی مجدد بر این گفته ی متفکران تحلیل کلام انتقادی است که معتقدند ساختار زبان در متاثر از ساختار قدرت است.



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گروه زبان و ادبیات انگلیسی

پایان نامه جهت اخذ درجه کارشناسی ارشد رشته ی زبانشناسی

نام دانشجو: دیاکو رحمانی

تحت عنوان

بازتاب نقش ایران در روزنامه ی نیویورک تایمز قبل و بعد از اواما

در تاریخ ۱۳۸۸/۱۱/۲۷ توسط هیأت داوران زیر بررسی و با درجه عالی به تصویب نهایی رسید.

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|-------|---|
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بازتاب نقشی ایران در روزنامه ی نیویورک تایمز قبل و بعد از اوپاما

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