

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter provides the research methodology which describes the mechanism in conducting the study. This chapter includes research design, data collection, and data analysis. The research design elaborates the method and the theoretical framework used in this study. In the data collection, the steps of collecting the data are elaborated. In the end of this chapter, the process of analyzing data is explained in the data analysis part.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study primarily employed a descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive method is “an investigation that attempts to describe accurately and factually a phenomenon, subject or area” (Richards & Schmidt, 2002, p. 152), while qualitative method involves the analysis of non-numerical data by using non-statistical method (Dornyei, 2007). Thus, this study is qualitative since it analyses non-numerical data – the data in this study are in the form of text. However, there are also some quantification applied in this study used to analyze the occurrence of each type of nomination and predication strategies employed by IRIB.

This study’s framework is one of CDA approaches namely Discourse Historical Approach (DHA) proposed by Reisigl & Wodak (2001). More specifically, Reisigl & Wodak’s (2001) notion of discursive strategy is used as the tool of analysis. Out of five types of discursive strategies, this study focused on two types which are nomination and predication strategies. The analysis of nomination strategy was aimed at seeing how social actors of Syrian civil war were referred to. In addition, the analysis of predication strategy was done to examine how the social actors were represented through some characteristics attached to them.

### 3.2 Data Collection

The data used in this study were taken from the English version of the official Website of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) at [www.trib.ir/English](http://www.trib.ir/English). IRIB is the Iranian corporation owned by the government of Iran. It is a very large corporation which establishes radio, television, and online media. However, IRIB was chosen not only because it is a very large corporation but also because IRIB is considered as the corporation owned by a country that supports one of the parties conflicting in Syrian civil war. It is proven by Iran's action, i.e supporting Syrian government to topple Syrian opposition.

The data are in the form of eight news articles reporting Syrian civil war and were published in November 2013 until March 2014. Four texts were published before Geneva Convention II, a conference held by UN to find a solution of Syrian civil war, and the other four were published after the convention. Two different periods (before and after Geneva Convention II) were selected in order to see whether there is any change in nomination and predication strategies employed by IRIB due to a historical aspect. The news articles and their publication dates are presented in the table below:

Table 3.1 Eight News Articles Reporting Syrian civil war Published by IRIB

No.	Title	Publication Date
1	Syrian MP kidnapped, executed by Takfiri militants	10 November 2013
2	Army makes new gains against Takfiri terrorists across Syria	11 November 2013
3	Saudis seeking to create an army of Syrian opposition	11 November 2013
4	Bomb attack kills dozen in Syria's Aleppo	12 November 2013
5	Syria militants block Aleppo aid convoy	08 May 2014
6	Syria: Army Targets Militants in Several	14 May 2014

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	Regions	
7	Groups of Militants Killed across Syria	15 May 2014
8	Leaders of Militant Groups Killed in Aleppo	18 May 2014

### 3.3 Data Analysis

The collected data were then analyzed by using the framework of DHA proposed by Reisigl & Wodak (2001). Specifically, this study analyzed the data by using a tool proposed by DHA which is called discursive strategy. Discursive strategy offered by DHA consisted of five strategies namely nomination strategy, predication strategy, argumentation strategy, perspectivization strategy, and intensification and mitigation strategy. However, this study only focuses on two strategies which are nomination and predication strategies.

In conducting the investigation, four steps had been done. First, identifying the nomination strategies employed by IRIB in referring to social actors of Syrian civil war. The analysis of nomination strategy was conducted to find out the social actors of Syrian civil war who were mentioned in the eight news texts from *IRIB* as well as the linguistic devices used to refer to them. The analysis was conducted by manually reviewing the texts. The linguistic devices found as the nomination strategies were then classified based on the types of nomination strategy proposed by Reisigl & Wodak (2001).

Second, investigating the predication strategies employed by IRIB in representing social actors of Syrian civil war. After social actors were identified for what linguistic devices used to refer to them, they were then identified for what predication strategies attached to them. The analysis was done to see how IRIB represent social actors of Syrian civil war by giving some characters to them. The predication strategies found in the texts were then classified based on the types of predication strategies proposed by Reisigl & Wodak (2001).

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Third, taking into account a historical aspect by investigating the pattern of nomination and predication strategies employed in four news texts published before Geneva Convention II and those which are published after the convention. The step was done to see whether there is any change in nomination and predication strategies employed by IRIB due to a historical aspect. Last, drawing the conclusions from the findings of this study.

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