CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the research methodology that will be implemented in this research. It discusses the research design, data collection, and the data analysis.

1.1 Research Design

In order to answer the research questions introduced in the first chapter and based on the theoretical framework of this research, a qualitative descriptive method will be used. Some definitions about qualitative research were given; for example, Creswell (1998) defines qualitative research as "… an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem" (p. 18). This definition supports the research problem in the sense that this research is purely social. Hence, this method seems to be suitable to do with this research entitled "the representation of Iran-Saudi conflict in the newspapers regarding Mina Hajj stampede 2015: A critical discourse analysis on the Arab News and the Tehran Times newspapers" in the sense that this research is dealing with geopolitical problem.

Given the definition of the qualitative research in the section above the qualitative research can explore social or human problems, but how, and in what ways helps the researcher. According to Creswell (1998) that 'qualitative research helps the researcher to build a complex, holistic picture, analysis words, reports detailed views of informants, and conducts the study in a natural setting' (p. 15). To achieve this notion, this research uses a linguistic critical theory of language that has a wide function and implementation in the analysis of text and talk (written or

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spoken) about language use as a form of social practice. This theory is called Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA).

Critical Discourse Analysis CDA, as the name says, provides a critical analytical perspective of social events/matters interacted, communicated, produced and reproduced in societies in a form of text and talk. The focus of critical discourse analysis is on social problems, and especially on the role of discourse in the production and reproduction of power abuse or domination.

1.2 Data Collection

The data for this research are public records e.g. archival materials using online browsing. In other words, the study is based on six texts collected from two newspapers, namely the Arab News and Tehran Times written in English language regarding the Mina Hajj Stampede 2015 in Saudi Arabia on 24 September 2015. These newspapers have been selected for this study because of their wide readership, their very different editorial styles and content, and their dissimilar readerships.

The data used in this research are written discourse taken from one of the Iranian and Saudi media, i.e., The Tehran Times and Arab News. In qualitative research, the data primarily involve words (Fraenkel, Wallen, & Hyun, 2012, p. 7). In other words, the data for this study can be found in documents form (Creswell, 1998, p. 12). Lincoln and Guba (1985) define a document as "any written or recorded material". Documents can be divided into two major categories: public records, and personal documents (Lincoln & Guba, 1985; Creswell, 1998). Thus, this study uses public documents, printed documents, and published for public.

The selected data of the Tehran Times is taken from the Politics Desk section online (TTPD) as a PDF format and has a reference No.12375 published on Saturday on September 26, 2015 (Mehr 4,

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1394)[1]   equal to *Dhul Hijjah* 12, 1436. The data is about the Hajj stampede in Mina (Saudi Arabia) which took place on 24 September 2015; at 9:00am, KSA, caused more than 2000 died among them 464 Iranians[2] . On the contrary, the data from Arab News is taken from the newspaper's online website using research keywords "Hajj Stampede 2015", "Iran and Hajj", … etc. the data consists of three texts regarding Mina Hajj Stampede 2015 published in the Middle East section from 26th of September to 21st of October 2015. Table 3.1 below presents the data from the Arab News and the Tehran Times.

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**:1 The Selected Data from the Arab News and Tehran Times**

No	Newspaper	Topic	Date
1	Tehran Times Newspaper	Leader: S. Arabia must admit responsibility for Mina disaster	26th of September 2015
2	Tehran Times Newspaper	Who should take responsibility for Mina catastrophe?	26th of September 2015
3	Tehran Times Newspaper	Iranian officials hold Saudi officials responsible for Hajj Stampede	26th of September 2015
4	Arab News	Iran has 'history of exploiting Haj'	21 October 2015
5	Arab News	KSA rubbishes Iran criticism of stampede	28 September 2015
6	Arab News	Overcrowding to blame for stampede: Eyewitnesses	Saturday 26 September 2015

1.3 Data Analysis

The selected texts given in the table 3.1 above will be analyzed using the critical discourse analysis CDA model. Scholars who implement CDA in their research cite Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (e.g., Halliday 1978; 1985; 1994), critical discourse theories (e.g., Fairclough 2003, Fowler 1991, Kress 1976, van Djik 1998, Wodak 2001,

[1] Iranian date form.
[2] Acoording to Middle East Eye, retrieved from: http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/nearly-2000-died-hajj-stampede-saudi-arabia-foreign-data-1540857707

Richardson, 2007) as the foundation and reference for linguistic aspects of their analyses. Van Dijk provides macro levels of discourse analysis that can be used in discourse text analysis, namely macrostructure analysis. Therefore, the study uses the theoretical approach framework of Van Dijk of critical discourse analysis, namely (1977, 1980 & 1983) as the main theory of this research.

1.3.1 CDA Analytical Tools

Technically and methodically, as mentioned in the previous section that in analyzing discourse or discourse structure there should be methods and techniques used as tools in analyzing text and talk. Text in van Dijk's model is divided into three categories, namely text analysis, social cognition, and social context. Diagram 3.1 represents the three categories of text and talk:

Diagram Error! No text of specified style in document.**.1 The Structure of Text in Van Dijk's Model**
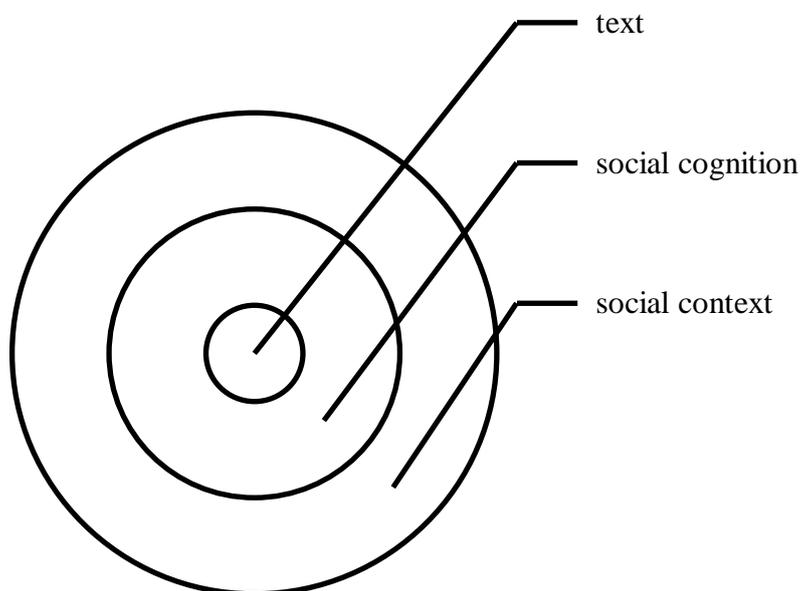
Diagram 3.1 shows the three components of text. To begin with, text is the core in the representation of the world's events and the

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participants. Social cognition do with the mental representation; the knowledge about the world events happening around us because a discourse analyst cannot do his analysis without a sufficient or a vast amount of knowledge about what he wants to analyze. Social context is the situation in which the discourse is produced, reproduced, and practiced and can be found in the text. So, the structure of social context of Iran and Saudi Arabia can be reflected from the chosen text.

The focus in this study is on the geopolitics of two societies, i.e., Iran and Saudi Arabia, which require a great knowledge of the world's events of these two societies and their context because social cognition does with the beliefs or social representations people share with others of their group or community. Knowledge, attitudes, values, norms and ideologies are different types of social representations.

In analyzing text and talk structures, van Dijk (1977, 1980, and 1983) suggested three kinds, namely microstructures, superstructures, and finally macrostructures.

Microstructures are the sequence of propositions underlying the sequence of sentences of the discourse, constitute the macro-rules. The analysis of the propositions in the micro-level is based on the semantic meaning, syntactical structures and other semantic relations of words, phrases, and sentences in the surface structure. Superstructures deal with the schematic structure of the text. Macrostructures deals with the global coherence of the discourse as a whole, such as discourse topics, themes, gist, and upshot.

This research uses the macrostructures approach by van Dijk, namely (1977, 1980 & 1983) for text analysis. Macrostructures consist of the text base, propositions, macro-rules, and macro-propositions. Table 3.2 below presents what constitutes macrostructures in discourse.

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**:2 Constitute of Macrostructures**

No	Constitute	Function
1	**Text base**	An order sequence of propositions, which under the various pragmatic, stylistic, and other constrains is mapped into a sequence of sentences.
2	**Propositions**	Propositions are the basic units of semantic structures.
3	**Macro-rules**	Macro-rules are semantic mapping rules that relate propositions sequences with proposition sequences at a higher level.
4	**Macro-propositions**	Macro-proposition is a proposition that is derived from the sententially expressed propositions of a discourse.

Macrostructures are defined by rules of what so called macro-rules. Table 3.2 shows the macro-rules used in formalizing the macro-propositions:

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**:3 Semantic Macro-rules**

No	Macro-rule	Function
1	**Deletion (selection)**	Given a sequence of prepositions, delete each proposition that is not an interpretation condition for another proposition in the sequence.
2	**Generalization**	Given a sequence of propositions, substitute the sequence by a proposition that is entitled by each of the propositions of the sequence.
3	**Construction**	Given a sequence of prepositions, replace it by a proposition that is entitled by the joint set of propositions of the sequence.

1.3.2 Procedures of Data Analysis

The data of this research is written text documentation from two newspapers. Thus, the information is processed in many steps those are; browsing the data from two newspapers' websites, namely the Arab News and the Tehran Times dated from 26 September to the 21 of October. Then the data in the text base (micro-level) is segmented into sentences represent propositions in the micro-level of analysis (see appendix).

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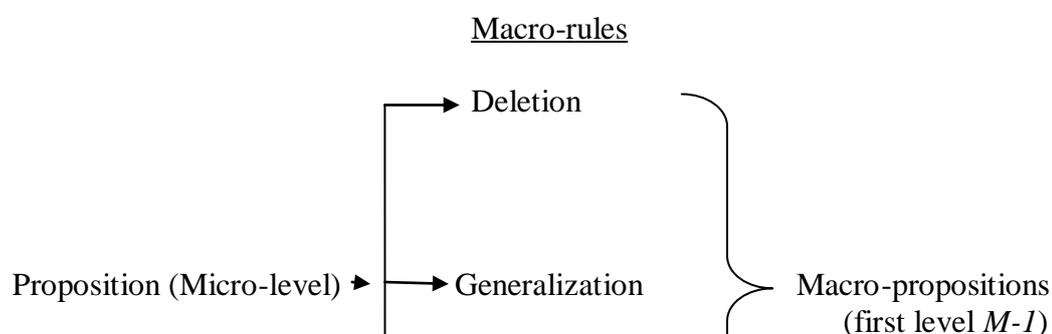
Furthermore, the data is processed by using the macro-rules, namely deletion/selection, generalization, and construction yielding macro-propositions in higher level. The process of reducing the information of the micro-level in the first level of analysis is exemplified in diagram [3.2]. Finally, macro-propositions that are formed from the analysis in the first level are reduced again by applying macro-rules in the second level. Van Dijk emphasizes that macro-rules are 'recursive'; can be applied for more than a time. The reduction of the information in the second level of analysis is diagramed in 3.3 below. Table 3.4 shows the system of macrostructures analysis.

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**:4 The System of Macro-propositions Analysis**

No	Micro-propositions	Macro-rules	Macro-propositions
1			
2			

To represent the method of analysis in another way, the following diagrams show how the macro-propositions analyses in the first level *M-1* and the second level *m-2* are conducted by using the linguistic features, i.e., macro-rules.
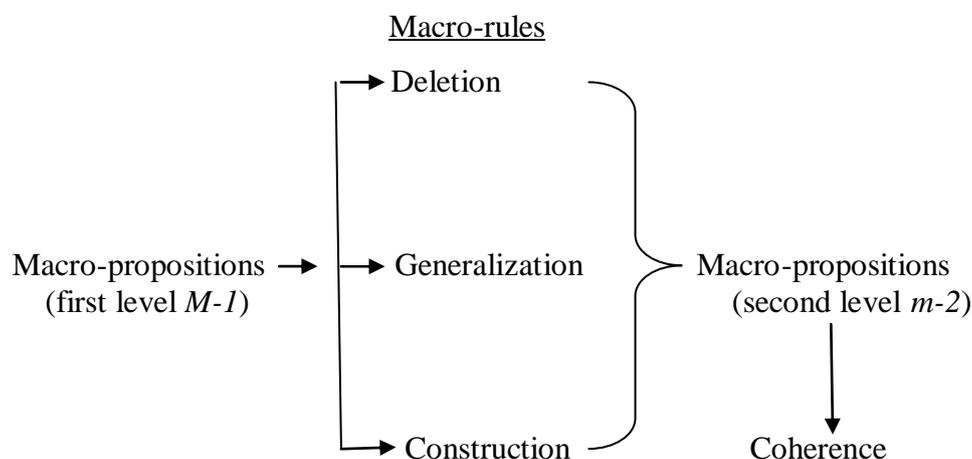
Diagram Error! No text of specified style in document.**.2 Macro-propositions Analysis First Level *M-1***

Macro-rules

Deletion

Proposition (Micro-level) → → Generalization   Macro-propositions (first level *M-1*)

$\longrightarrow$ Construction

In this first level of macro-propositions' analysis, macro-rules (deletion, generalization, and construction) can be applied to propositions in the text base (micro-level). Thus, deletion requires that the information that is extra in the text base can be deleted because they are not relevant to the interpretation of the propositions or cannot be serve for the coherence of the text. There are two types of deletions, namely strong deletion and weak deletion. Strong deletion deletes the information that is not relevant to the interpretation of the other propositions. Weak deletion deletes the information that is relevant to the interpretation of the micro-propositions in the micro-level but not relevant in the macro-level. Generalization is concerning with collecting concepts as participants and predicates in a superset concepts. Finally, construction is concerning with the joining of propositions into a more general topic.

Diagram Error! No text of specified style in document.**.3 Macro-propositions Analysis Second Level *m-2***

Macro-rules

Deletion

Macro-propositions
(first level *M-1*)

Generalization

Construction

Macro-propositions
(second level *m-2*)

Coherence

As mentioned in chapter two that macro-rules are *recursive*. Meaning that, macro-rules can be used repeatedly to reduce the information in the text base or even the macro-propositions. Concerning the second level of analysis, macro-rules, e.g., deletion, generalization, and constructions can be used to reduce the macro-propositions yielding from the analysis of

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propositions in the text base to more macro-propositions in the second level or third level aiming to form more topics/themes that are global.

1.4 Closing

The chapter presents that the study uses a qualitative descriptive method in analyzing the representations in the media texts. In addition, linguistically, the chapter describes some critical discourse analytical techniques and tools that seem to be accurate to be applied for identifying the macrostructures of the texts.