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**MAKING SENSE OF THE LANGUAGE OF PEACE: ITS MEANING IN
IRAQI WAR VICTIMS' NARRATIVES**

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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA
2020**



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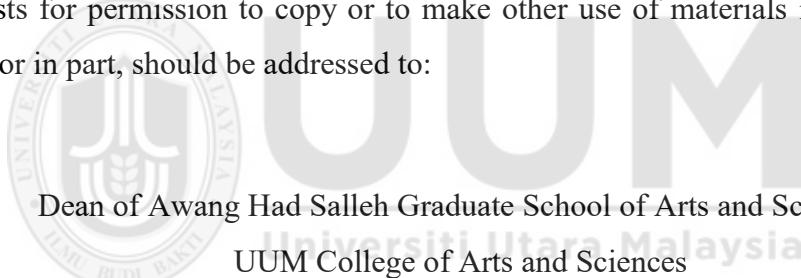
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Abstrak

Wacana positif mampu memperkasa orang ramai untuk menggunakan bahasa yang menggalakkan perdamaian dan kesopanan dalam kehidupan seharian. Justeru, bahasa boleh dilihat sebagai satu pengaruh dan imbasan kepada imej diri dan latar belakang seseorang individu. Namun, kajian terdahulu lebih tertumpu kepada bahasa peperangan atau kebencian. Di Iraq, bahasa polemik telah mengakibatkan keganasan dan konflik kaum. Tidak banyak penelitian yang diterokai dalam memahami ciri-ciri bahasa keamanan samada linguistik atau bukan linguistik. Kajian kualitatif ini meneroka pembentukan dan tafsiran bahasa keamanan melalui perspektif dua puluh lima warga Iraq yang pernah menghadapi suasana peperangan di negara mereka. Kajian bertujuan memahami bahasa keamanan, maknanya dan faktor yang menggalakkan keamanan. Data dikumpulkan melalui persampelan bertujuan yang meliputi pemerhatian dan naratif daripada kumpulan temu bual mendalam dan berfokus. Responden yang dipilih adalah mangsa peristiwa perang Iraq iaitu pensyarah pelawat dan pelajar sarjana di sebuah universiti awam di Malaysia. Melalui pendekatan analisis wacana, data memaparkan beberapa tema utama dan subtema berkaitan bahasa keamanan. Antara dapatan termasuk mengelak daripada krisis, menggunakan bahasa yang memaparkan kerjasama, kasih sayang dan aspek keselamatan. Percakapan yang mampu memberi ketenangan jiwa, sopan dan bersikap penyayang juga merupakan faktor yang boleh meningkatkan kesopanan dan penggunaan bahasa keamanan dalam komunikasi seharian. Kajian ini mempunyai beberapa implikasi. Antaranya dapat dijadikan sebagai landasan perbahasan mengenai bahasa keamanan di kawasan yang cenderung kepada peperangan. Selain itu, bahasa keamanan mampu memberi pemahaman yang mendalam kepada pendidik dan pembuat keputusan mengenai penggunaan wacana secara positif bagi membolehkan perucap menjalinkan hubungan baik serta memaparkan rasa prihatin ketika berkomunikasi. Pendekatan yang sama boleh digunakan untuk mendapat gambaran mendalam mengenai penggunaan bahasa keamanan dalam kalangan mangsa perang yang lain. Kajian susulan boleh dilakukan untuk meneliti peranan bahasa keamanan dalam menangani konflik dunia digital masa kini memandangkan bahasa pujukan, kritikan malah kebencian boleh disebar luas dengan cepat.

Kata Kunci: Bahasa keamanan, Kesopanan, Naratif, Wacana, Iraq.

Abstract

Positive discourse can empower people to use language that promotes peace in daily communication to avoid conflicts. Language is seen as the influencer and reflector of individual's self-image and background. Yet, past studies focus more on the language of war or hate speech. In Iraq, polemic language has evidently led to sectarian conflicts and violence. Not much has been explored in making sense of peace utterances, the linguistic or non-linguistic features. Thus, this qualitative study explores the interpretation of the language of peace through the lens of twenty-five Iraqis who have encountered war in their country. The study seeks to make sense of the language of peace, its meanings and factors that can enhance peace among Iraqis. Through purposive sampling, data collected were observations and narratives from focus group and in-depth interviews. The selected respondents comprise Iraqi visiting lecturers and postgraduate students in a Malaysian public university. Based on the analytical discourse approach, the data reveal several core themes and sub-themes of language of peace. Among these include avoiding crisis, cooperative language, language of affection and sense of security. The associated peace words include being caring, polite and promoting inner peace which are reflected in the factors that can enhance peace in daily communication. The study reveals several implications. It promotes a platform for deliberating peaceful rhetoric in violence-prone areas. It gives educators and decision makers a deeper understanding of language of peace that enables speakers to develop good, meaningful relationships, display politeness and feelings of goodwill. A similar approach can be used to obtain in-depth reflections about such language among other war victims. Further research studies should explore the language of peace roles in deliberating effective strategies to overcome conflicts in today's digitalised world given that the language of endearment, conviction and hate can be disseminated quickly.

Keywords: Language of peace, Politeness, Narratives, Discourse, Iraq.

Acknowledgements

In the name of ALLAH, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon our Prophet Muhammed (SAWS).

First and foremost, thanks for Allah Almighty for making the journey of PhD easy for me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those people who have greatly contributed from the inception to the final stages of this study. I will mention some who have played a substantial role in completing the work. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to my supervisor, Datin Dr Minah Harun; her knowledge has been a constant source of motivation for me.

I would like to acknowledge the support of many individuals who helped me in accomplishing this research study in some ways or other ways. Among these, my sincere goes to Prof. Madya Dr Zarina Othman (UKM; as external examiner) and Prof. Madya Dr Ahmad Affendi Shabdin (UUM; as internal examiner), Prof. Madya Dr Hariharan a/l N Krishnasamy (UUM), Dr Mohd Khairie Ahmad (UUM), Ms Gillian Martin (London), Prof. Dr Tim Walters (USA), Prof. Dr Virginia Braun (New Zealand) and Prof. Dr Victoria Clarke (England). I would also like to thank all the participants for their cooperation in this research.

Also, to my inspiring Father, Prof. Dr Salah Salman Abtan. Your never-ending love and support have enabled me to make this dream a reality. I owe you a lot, may Allah bless you. I would like to thank also my family, in particular the precious jewel, my Mom (Nawal), my lovely sister (Aya), the intimate partner, my wife (Sulaf), my angels (Mariya, Nawal and Miral), and my dear Auntie (Farha), who have provided continuous encouragement, patience and prayers over the period of my study.

Alhamdulillah (Praise to Allah)

To my late ancestors: ‘Salman and Ayeena’

You are and have always been in my heart since your absence when I was a teenager.

Thank you for your unconditional love and sincere prayers. May Allah (SWT) have His Greatest Mercy on your souls.

Aamin

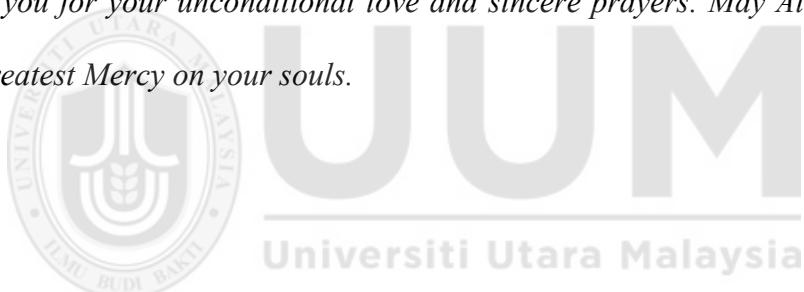


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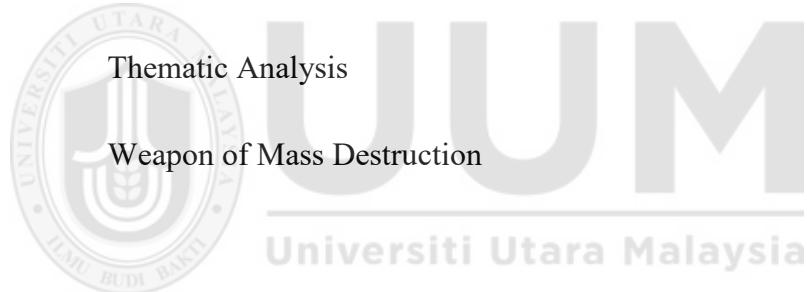
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List of Abbreviations

FG	Focus Group
FP	Female Participant
IDI	In-depth Interview
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
MP	Male Participant
PBUT	Peace Be Upon Them
PBUH	Peace Be Upon Him
TA	Thematic Analysis
WMD	Weapon of Mass Destruction



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important role in relation to war and peace. Language, which is rarely neutral, shapes perception and behaviour. Language can be used to demean differences and inflict violence or to affirm diversity and achieve recognition ... A language of positive peace fosters open and inclusive communication that affirms diversity.

(Gay, 1999, p. 303)

1.1 Background of the Study

In our day-to-day communication, the need for appropriate language should not be one that is provocative. Rather, our priority should be creating an atmosphere of amity and tranquillity among nations. Language is a powerful tool given that people can articulate their intentions using positive words and attitude or vice-versa. The power of positive language to our understanding is harmonious communication (Maia & Santos, 2018). Harmonious communication entails harmony and polite utterances as effective tools that should never be regarded as marginal to our comprehension of the world in which we live, but are highly central to it. In many ways, words are not just letters thrown together to convey a meaning; rather, words also reflect the speaker's identity, culture, social status, and even inner peace rhetoric (Bach, 2015; Bavelas & Chovil, 2000; Elbow, 1998).

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Appendix A

Invitation to Participate by E-mail

Dear Sir/Madam

I am Ali Salah Salman a PhD candidate in the School of Languages, Civilisation and Philosophy in Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). My research title is, “Making sense of the language of peace: Its meaning in Iraqi war victims’ narratives”. If you would like to participate in this study, I appreciate your assistance.

Please specify a suitable time and place to meet.

Thank You.

Ali Salah Salman
Mobile phone: 01158934959
E-mail: ali_salah@ahsgs.uum.edu.my / alisalah84phd@gmail.com



Appendix B

Participant Consent Form

I have been asked to participate in the research (focus group discussions/in-depth interviews) on the construction of the language of peace seen through the lens of Iraqi people (victims). I understand that this is a voluntary act and there are no right or wrong answers.

I agree to participate fully in the session.

Participant Name:

Respondent Code/Pseudonym:

Signature:

Venue:

Date:

Appendix C

Interview Questions

1. How do you describe/understand/define “peace”?
 - a. What are the words that are related to “peace”?
 - b. Why do you link this with peace?
2. Can you tell me about your past tragic experience in Iraq?
 - a. How do you feel after each tragic action?
 - b. How do the actions impact your daily interaction with people?
3. Do you think we should do research about peace language?
4. Do you think that Iraqis are able to achieve peace after all the tragic events that people witnessed?
5. What are the factors that you think are workable in creating/promoting peace among Iraqis? Why?
6. Do you have any other points to share about peace or peace language?

Thank you very much for participating in this interview/study. If you would like to do follow-up encounters, or clarify your responses, please let me know.

Source: Adapted from Harun (2007).

Appendix D

FG1 and FG2 Discussions: Transcript Samples (Arabic Language

Version)

لمشركه 3 – مج موعة لتكلويز1:

للسَّلَمِ مَوْتٌ حَبِيلٌ احْلَفَاتٍ ... إِذَا كُنْتَ تَلِكَ بِاحْثَرْتَ طَلِعَ الْيَوْمِ أَلْحَدَ الْأَنْتَقِيلَتَيْتَ حَدِيقَيْلِيَّدَنَا ... أَيْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ اسْلَمَ هَبِيبَ عَوْرَا
بِهِدَأَ الْقِرَاءَةِ الْقَيْقِيلَفَعَالْكَلَتِيْ حَشَتْ ---، نَعَمْ هَيْجَبْ أَنَّ الْيَكِونَ إِلَعَاقِيَّوْنَ [خَدِيرَتَهْسَرْعَيْنَفِيْيَهِذَادَ
الْقَرَارَاتِ أَوْمَنْعَأَوْتَقْيِيفَنْمَطْ مَعِينَ مِنَ الْمَلَكَلَةِ أَوْالَضَّعْلَذِيِّيِّيَمَدَالَنَاسِ إِلَجَمَاعَاتِ الْمَيْيِيَّةِ[كَمَشَهَدَنَا] [مَا]
حَدِيقَيْإِلَمَآسِيِّيَالْطَّهِيَّةِ لِعَامِ 2006 و 2008 يَكِيلَشَيِّعَةِ الْمَسَنَّةِ].

لمشركه 10 – مج موع قلتكلويز2:

مَنْبَطِيَّةِ الْقِرَآنِ الْكَرِيمِ حَتَّىَنْ هَيْفَسُورَةَ الْأَنْسَالِ الْجِيَوْجَشِيِّيِّيَمَلَمَخَمَاعَاتِ الْمَالِسَنَّةِ وَالشَّيْعَةِ ، الْعَرَبُ
وَلَلْمَاهِيَّنِ ، لَعْنِيَّ إِلَطْلُقَيِّيَّجَبْ أَنْيُظَمِرَ الْمَسَلَمَ إِبْلَهِمَارَسَةِ مِنْ خَلِيلَيِّيَلِقِرَآنِ الْكَرِيمِ هَيْدَلِيَّلِالْجِيَّاَهِ
لِسَلَمِيَّةِ وَلِعَمَلِ الْأَصَالِحِيِّيِّيَالْمَجَمِعِ . لَعْنِيَّ هَذَا الْنَّجَوِ ، أَوْدَ أَنْأَقْوَلَ إِنَّ هَذَا الْعَامَلِيِّيَعَزِيزَلِسَلَمَ إِذَا مَاهِنَاهِ
إِلَعَاقِيَّوْنَ].

Appendix E

FG1 and FG2 Discussions: Transcript Samples (English Language Version)

FP3-FG1: *Peace is the avoidance of disputes ... if you [researcher] are looking to events that take place in our country ... which is, the people did not follow the principle of carefully reading the actions that took place ----, yes, they [Iraqis] should not be reckless in making decisions or prevention or mitigation of a particular pattern of problem or situation that threatens the people [religious groups] as we have witnessed [what happened in] the sectarian [tragedies] of 2006 and 2008 [among Shia and Sunni].*

MP10-FG2: *From the beginning of Holy Quran to the end of Surat al-Nas there is no such thing as the division of societies into the Sunnis and Shiites, Arab and Malay, at all. It [Islam representing peace] has to be shown that the practice of Holy Quran teaching is the guide to a peaceful life and good deeds in society. As such, I would like to say that this factor also promotes peace if we [Iraqis] practise it.*

Appendix F

In-depth Interviews: Arabic Transcript Samples

الاکل مالله تیت مخس اوت تفہل للسلام هي حب المساعدة ، حب آل خین ، حب الصرقاء ، حب القارب ، حب الناس ، حب الچران ، حب الوطن ، حب الهم آل خرى فلض الخلم قت مخس للسلام من وجوه قنطرى هي الـ حب .
المشارك (8)

بـ ما زلت أقونـ شـكـل عـامـشـأـنـ لـحـضـعـالـعـلـيـ فـاكـفـهـيـالـعـرـاقـ] فـإنـالـمـطـلـبـ آلـولـلـنـاسـ موـلـيـادـةـآلـجـيـدةـ
ولـلـجـيـمـفـتـ حـبـالـمـجـسـوـيـالـفـتـيـ جـلـبـمـأسـاـةـ إـلـرـهـالـلـبـتـيـيـلـرـتـ نـجـيـعـالـلـكـنـاـ الـجـمـعـمـاعـعـلـيـسـنـوـاتـ عـهـيـدـةـإـكـمـواـطنـ
، ثـلـعـرـأـنـ مـهـؤـلـيـتـيـ هيـيـشـجـيـعـالـسـلـمـ منـخـلـلـأـنـكـوـنـقـطـئـاـ حـيـداـ سـوـافـجـيـيـتـيـ أـفـيـالـجـمـعـةـ فـيـمـكـانـ
عـلـهـيـ.

المشارك (2)

الـسـلـمـ هوـالـخـطـابـالـعـلـيـسـلـوـكـالـتـوـصـلـعـيـنـالـنـاسـلـعـيـشـفـيـ مـذـهـلـجـيـاـقـهـدـوـءـ ...ـاـعـمـاـهـلـغـفـالـعـاـنـيـقـيـنـ
لـطـنـحـاـيـاسـقـيـوـ دـهـمـلـيـالـنـاشـنـفـيـيـلـغـلـبـعـلـيـصـرـعـبـاتـ مـذـهـاجـيـاـةـتـ حـبـالـنـاـوـشـالـلـهـتـيـيـلـرـتـ نـجـيـعـلـىـأـبـمـ
، أوـأـنـأـيـلـكـنـأـنـتـقـلـلـغـلـسـلـمـالـخـصـقـبـمـ.

المشارك (14)

Appendix G

In-depth Interviews: English Transcript Samples

The words that reflect or represent peace are love of assistance, love of others, love of friends, love of relatives, love of people, love of neighbours, love of homeland, love of other nations. The best word that reflects peace, from my point of view, is love. (Male Participant 8)

Since we are generally concerned about the current situation there [in Iraq], consequently, the first demand of people is good and wise leadership in order to avoid the nepotism which brings the tragedy of terrorism that impacted our social weft for many years. As a citizen, I feel it is my responsibility to encourage peace by being a good leader, whether in my home or at the university, my place of work. (Male Participant 2)

*Universiti Utara Malaysia
Peace is the cooperation rhetoric and communication behaviour among people to live in this life with tranquillity ... adopting the cooperative language among victim will lead them to join hands in overcoming the difficulties of this life and to avoid the skirmishes that impacted even their politeness, or I can say their peace language. (Male Participant 14)*

Appendix H

Coding Sample

Transcript	Coding (theme)
FG1-P3 <p><i>Peace is the avoidance of disputes ... if you [researcher] are looking to events that take place in our country ... which is, the people did not follow the principle of carefully reading the actions that took place ----, yes, they [Iraqis] should not be reckless in making decisions or prevention or mitigation of a particular pattern of problem or situation that threatens the people [religious groups] as we have witnessed [what happened in] the sectarian [tragedies] of 2006 and 2008 [among Shia and Sunni].</i></p>	avoidance of disputes (<i>descriptive code of peace definition</i>), prevention or mitigation of a particular pattern of problem or situation that threatens the people (<i>interpretative code of peace definition</i>),
FG2-P8 <p><i>I would like to say that peace is enhancing the concept of harmony, love and friendship or also is smiling. Only smile for others and I see this beautiful symbol here [Malaysia] and it is also depicted in the attitude as well as polite ... behaviour and the morality of this nation [Malay]. This is what we need. Smile is a key for many positive issues that people suffering for.</i></p>	harmony, love and friendship (<i>descriptive code of language of peace</i>), smile (<i>interpretative code of language of peace</i>)
In-depth Interview-P5 <p><i>I assert that if there was security and stability in any place in the world, there is no doubt that it is a motive and a sign of progress and supporting scientific research in that country ... the nearest example to us is Malaysian society. Their economic and educational development started only a few years ago, but Malaysia now is one of the stronger and more developed countries in the world because they supported this field. This is what we need in our country, as a key that promoting peace.</i></p>	supporting scientific research (<i>descriptive code of peace factors</i>), economic and educational development (<i>interpretative code of peace factor</i>).

Appendix I

Thematic Map Sample

