The Representation of English and Arabic Para Athletes with Special Reference to Transitivity System

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ABSTRACT:

This article employs one of the tools proposed by Jeffries' (2010) framework of critical stylistic namely the TCF of representing actions/events /and states (transitivity) to examine how male and female Para Athletes are linguistically constructed as social actors in selected English and Arabic Paralympic sport magazines. It aims to identify the stylistic strategies employed in these selected magazines in their textual representation to construct the identity of Para Athletes and the effect of gender and disability in such representation. The study is focused on the analysis of 10 English articles and 10 Arabic articles from English and Arabic magazines related to the field of Para sport and issued between 2016 and 2020. To achieve the research objectives, the study hypothesizes that both the English and Arabic texts tend to assign agent roles to Para Athletes with varied gender preferences. The results of this study show that the selected magazines activate Para Athletes in an attempt to bring People with disabilities (PWDs) from margin to the foreground as social actors. However, the findings also indicate a differential representation of Para Athletes in terms of gender in that both English and Arabic texts allocate agent roles to Para Athletes, however the English texts portray males mainly as Sensers and Sayers, while the Arabic texts portray females as Actors, Sensers, Carriers, and Sayers more than males. This contradicts the common belief that women's contribution to society is excluded and underestimated, suggesting that they can play an important functional role in society like men, regardless of their social status.

Keywords: Critical Stylistic Analysis (CSA), Social Actors, Representation, Transitivity, Para Athletes, Paralympic sport

1. Introduction

The problem of the current study concerns the underrepresentation of Athletes with disabilities (henceforth Para Athletes) in the traditional media (Ramon and Rojas-Torrijos 2022: 919). Disability scholars have consistently emphasized the significance of language as a tool for reflecting or influencing attitudes about disability. (Mallett and Slater 2014: 91). Hermeston (2017: 37) asserts that disability discourse has not yet undergone a comprehensive investigation of the linguistic structures and resources utilized in media discourses. In this context, Hermeston argues that critical stylistics of disability will uncover the linguistic patterns that codify PWDs as usually portrayed as socially deviant. He further suggests that the analysis of linguistic resources such as noun choice, transitivity, and the language of appraisal and evaluation can reveal how ideas and stereotypes of PWDs are encoded (Ibid., 46-54). Therefore, critical stylistic analysis investigates a comprehensive range of language patterns that can encapsulate discourse and are useful in revealing the linguistic mechanisms through which particular values, stereotypes, and ideas regarding social constructs such as gender and disability are communicated by the media. Given the assumption that Para Athletes may be represented differently based on gender and disability (Schantz and Gilbert, 2001: 74-75), the fact that culture influences attitudes toward PWDs, and the paucity of research on cross-cultural differences in media coverage of Para sport (Chang, 2009: 90), the current study examines how English and Arabic Paralympic sport magazines use the TCF of transitivity to represent Para Athletes' identities and how gender and disability affect PWDs' depiction in sports. The presented study hypothesizes that both the English and Arabic texts tend to assign agent roles to Para Athletes with varied gender preferences.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Critical Stylistics

In order to analyze and explain the different styles in which influencing strategies are included in literary and non-literary texts and reveal their writers' deeply ingrained values, Jeffries (2010) introduces Critical Stylistics (henceforth CS) through the amalgamation of stylistic analysis with functional linguistics and CDA. Jeffries' approach uses miscellaneous tools from these disciplines to fulfil its aims. Jeffries (2010: 12-14) raises a basic question on how non-literary texts are processed in relation to ideology. To answer this question, there is a need for a framework that must: (1) describe the formal characteristics of a text, (2) demonstrate the importance of their function, and (3) interpret them objectively. To meet the three requirements stated in the previous section. Hence,

Jeffries (2015: 382) suggests a straightforward framework for analyzing the hidden ideologies (concepts) embedded in textual creation. The foundation of this paradigm is the "*Textual Conceptual Function*" (henceforth TCF), which explains how the text develops different features of the world using 10 tools. These tools are "*Naming and describing, Representing Actions/ Events/ States, Prioritizing, Presenting opinions and speech, Hypothesizing, Equating and constructing, Enumerating and exemplifying, Assuming and implying, and Constructing time and space*". According to Jeffries (2010: 16), these ten tools seem to be somewhere on the borderline between the formal and the functional aspects of language. Since all forms of texts express a unique conceptual foundation with the intent of influencing the text recipient (Ibid. 51), the tools are provided to help the reader discover that ideological content (Ibid. 16). Critical Stylistics devices also guide text to help writers and producers achieve their goals. (Al-Janabi and Al-Marsumi, 2021: 250).

Hermeston (2017: 45) further maintains that CS of disability should be applicable to media texts. As a result, it is critical to consider the various forms of disability representations that can emerge from a given context (such as disability sport) and to understand how such representations create meanings (Ibid.). One such representation is that of the TCF of transitivity which is the focus of the current article. Several previous studies, such as Al-Timimi's (2018) and Hasan's (2019), found that applying Jeffries' CS tools on English and Arabic texts seems workable to conduct a contrastive analysis. Therefore, this study takes the initiative to analyze selected texts from two different languages and cultures, i.e., English, and Arabic Para-sport media texts in terms of the TCF of representing actions/events /and states (transitivity).

2.2 Media Discourse and Paralympic Sport

According to Caldwell, et al. (2016: 4), the pursuit of describing the language features in sport is not intended for the understanding of language description alone. The language of sport is analyzed since sport communicates ideas and information about the world (Ibid.). Furthermore, Beard (1998: 17) asserts that the language of sport shows how sport reflects the broader world around us. Hence, he examines the language of sport talk, including commentary and modern sports writing, to address themes including gender, identity, and the role of sports in social solidarity. However, Beard (1998: 84) claims that some sports texts attempt to convince readers to adopt a particular viewpoint. Conversely, the language of sport is still regarded by some conservative circles of cultural experts as marginal or even unserious (Beard, 1998: 1), despite the most obvious fact that sport is one of the most expressive and concrete manifestations of

contemporary culture (Coakley, 2009: 43). It might be alleged that sport has no literature worthy of note. This argument, though, is a sterile one- what is and is not literature is a purely subjective matter. According to Beard (1998: 2), the language of sport has its own distinct genre of writing designs and patterns in the language from which it is made. Similarly, Alege (2018:77) argues that the selection of words, phrases, and sentences is deliberate and employed to accomplish specific impacts on the reader. In the context of sports media texts, writing across different means of print media, such as magazines, remains a significant mode of communication (Stockwell and Whiteley, 2014: 504). Sports writing, however, comes in many forms and serves many purposes. It is much better to look at a specific type of writing, then find some points for investigation (Beard, 1998: 83). An important and focused example of this sort of writing is about the Paralympic sport.

The Paralympic Movement is motivated by four fundamental principles "*Courage*, *Determination*, *Inspiration*, and *Equality"* (IPC, 1989). These values put an emphasis on Para athletes, their abilities, and their achievements, as Para athletes serve as positive examples for these visions and goals. The IPC incorporated these values into its Constitution and applied them as the foundation for this "*Strategic Plan*" (Ibid.). In this regard, Para athletes and the PGs are central to the Paralympic Movement, as their accomplishments and amazing stories inform the values of respect and recognition for PWDs.

As a result, in order to reconstruct societal consciousness of comprehending and acknowledging Para athletes, they sometimes rely on dedicated and appropriate media coverage (Schantz and Gilbert, 2001: 73). Because of the media's depiction of disabilities and disability sports, many people are unaware of the Paralympic movement discourse (Ibid.). Media reporting of the Paralympics was unimpressive, however, since the beginning of the new millennium, several scholars began examining the corresponding benefits and drawbacks of what has come to be known as the superhero narrative with its characteristically inspiring narratives of Para athletes challenging the adversities to deliver optimal athletic achievements (Hardin and Hardin, 2004: 29). Such discourse then brings about the inspiration that the inconceivable is actually viable. Thus**,** as Rees et al. (2019: 378) assert, it is essential to mention the media's pivotal role in shaping public perceptions of disabilities. Pullen, et al. (2019: 4) also affirm that, in illustrating disability, journalists choose what to report and how to communicate these representations to broad audiences.

Therefore, it is expected that the topic of Paralympic Discourse will take on a positive perspective that consists of the IPC values and identity, which serves to portray Para Athletes in their media.

3. Methodology
3.1 Data Selection

The current study is an attempt to investigate the TCF of transitivity employed in the English and Arabic representation of Para Athletes in 10 English articles and 10 Arabic articles published between 2016 and 2020 in English and Arabic magazines. The English magazines include *The Paralympian*, the official magazine of the Paralympic Movement worldwide issued in Germany, and *Agility* magazine which focuses on disability sports issued in the UK. The Arabic magazines include *Al-Hemam*, a Para sport-related magazine published in the UAE, and *Paralympiad*, the first magazine of its kind in Iraq to cover Para sport and the activities of Para Athletes. The argument that PWDs in general and Para Athletes in particular are not portrayed as they would like to be represented in the traditional media was what led to examine these magazines and not others. Therefore, this study is considered an attempt to gain insights on the style followed by these Para sport magazines in their representation of Para Athletes and by extension PWDs in general.

3.2 Analysis Procedures

Drawing on the transitivity system developed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), and concurrently, on the social actors' activation and passivation as described by van Leeuwen (2008), 20 articles were chosen for this analysis, and each one was analyzed for its portrayal of male and female Para Athletes in different sports.PWDs can be "activated," in which they are portrayed as the driving forces behind an action, or "passivated," in which they take on the role of passive observers. Subjected (in the representation, regarded as objects) or benefited from are two options for dealing with passive social participants (positively or negatively).

4. Results and Discussion
4.1 TCF of Transitivity in the English Texts

This section presents the TCF of transitivity choices used to construct Para Athletes' actions and states of being in the English texts (Appendix 1). It complements van Leeuwen's approach of activation and passivation. textually, Para Athletes are represented in 487 processes of transitivity. Table (1) below illustrates that the material processes are the dominant choice with 215/44% occurrences for both females and males. Apparently, the substantial use of material processes typically serves to represent Para Athletes as Actors.

Table (1): The Distribution of Transitivity in the English Texts.

Transitivity Processes	F Σ / (%)	M Σ / (%)	Σ / (%)
Material Action Processes	111 (23%)	104 (21%)	215 / (44 %)
Mental Processes	61 (13%)	66 (14%)	127 / (27 %)
Relational Processes	36 (7%)	29 (6%)	65 / (13 %)
Verbalization Processes	29 (6%)	35 (7%)	64 / (13 %)
Existential processes	6 (1 %)	6 (1 %)	12 / (2 %)
Behavioural processes	1 (0%)	3 (1 %)	4 / (1 %)
Σ / (%)	245 / (50%)	244 / (50%)	**487 / (100%)**

Table (1) above shows that material processes are the most frequent with a distribution of 44 %, whereas mental processes come next with 27 %, followed by the verbalization and relational processes with 13 % each, then the existential processes with only 2 %. and finally behavioural processes with only a 1%. Figure (1) below further illustrates the statistical distribution of transitivity processes in representing Para Athletes in the English texts.
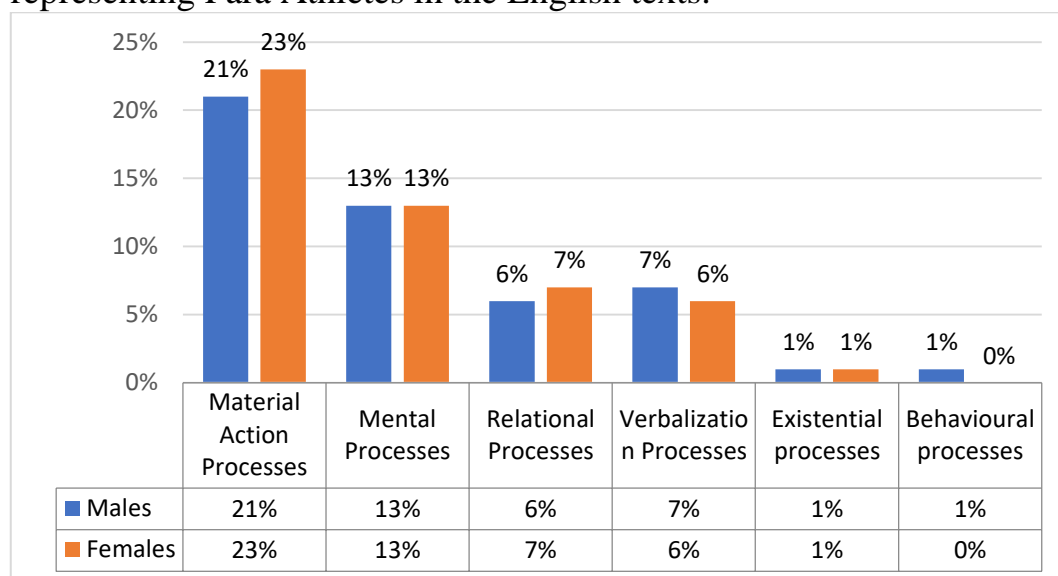

	Material Action Processes	Mental Processes	Relational Processes	Verbalization Processes	Existential processes	Behavioural processes
Males	21%	13%	6%	7%	1%	1%
Females	23%	13%	7%	6%	1%	0%

Figure (1): Transitivity in Representing Para Athletes in the English Texts.

It is evident from Figure (1) above that the material, mental, verbal, and relational processes have the significant distributions in representing Para Athletes' actions and state of being. As a result, they should be focused on in the analysis of the selected English texts. The distribution illustrated in Table (2) below reveals that both female and male Para Athletes are activated in terms of their allocated roles.

Table (2): The Distribution of Transitivity Role Allocation in the English Texts.

	Role Allocation												
	Halliday (1985, 1994) and Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, 2014)												
	Activation							Passivation					Σ/ (%)
								Subjected			Beneficialised		
G	Actor	Senser	Token	Carrier	Sayer	Behaver	Existent	Goal	Phenom	Carrier (effective attributive)	Recipient	Target	
F	89	60	3	33	27	1	6	10	0	0	12	2	243 /
Σ//(%)	219 / (45 %)							24/ (6 %)					(51 %)
M	90	64	3	25	35	3	6	4	3	6	5	0	244 /
Σ(/%)	226 / (46 %)							18 / (3 %)					(50 %)
M&F Σ / (%)	445 / (91 %)							42 / (9 %)					487 / (100%)

Table (2) above shows 487 instances of activation with a distribution of 91 % of the total roles allocated to Para Athletes, and 42 instances of passivation with a distribution of 9 % (Appendix 1). It indicates that Para Athletes are substantially activated in the selected English texts, as illustrated in Figure (2) below.
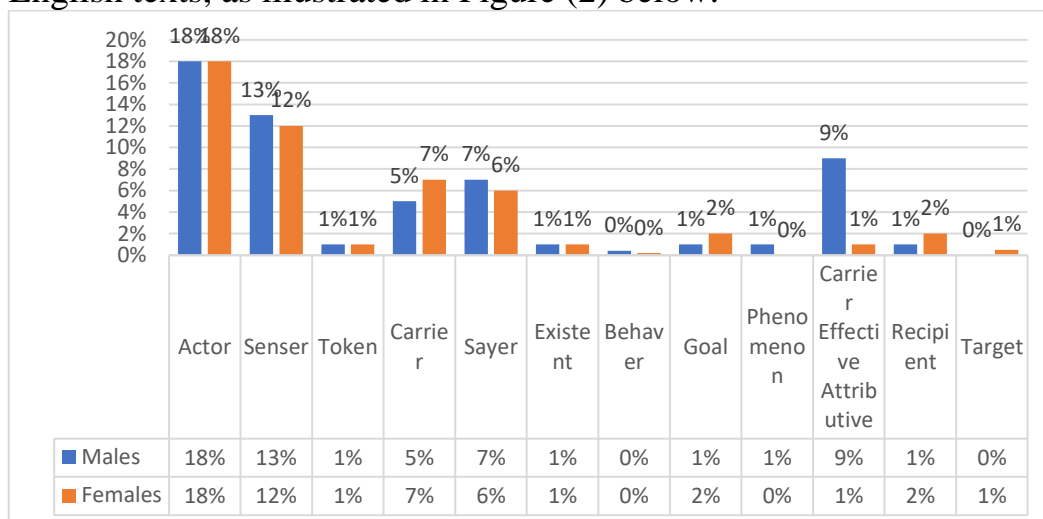

	Actor	Senser	Token	Carrier	Sayer	Existent	Behaver	Goal	Phenomenon	Carrier Effective Attributive	Recipient	Target
Males	18%	13%	1%	5%	7%	1%	0%	1%	1%	9%	1%	0%
Females	18%	12%	1%	7%	6%	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%

Figure (2): Role Allocations in the English Texts.

Figure (2) above clearly indicates that, despite gender differences, Para Athletes have the physical, mental, and verbal powers that are realized throughout their textual representation of transitivity. However, the physical power outweighs the mental and verbal ones. The following section presents the analysis of the TCF transitivity in the selected Arabic articles.

4.2 TCF of Transitivity of the Arabic Texts

This section examines the textual transitivity choices used to represent Para Athletes in the selected Arabic texts. Para Athletes are represented in 391 processes of transitivity (Appendix 12). Table (3) below illustrates that the material processes are the dominant choice with 182 occurrences (47 %) for both females and males. Apparently,

such substantial use of material processes typically serves towards representing Para Athletes primarily as Actors.

Table (3): The Distribution of Transitivity in the Arabic Texts.

Process	F Σ / (%)	M Σ / (%)	Σ / (%)
Material Action Processes	107 (27 %)	75 (19 %)	182 / 47 %
Mental Processes	39 (10 %)	44 (11 %)	83 / (21 %)
Verbalization Processes	40 (10 %)	31 (8 %)	71 / (18 %)
Relational Processes	25 (6 %)	27 (7 %)	52 / (13 %)
Existential processes	1 (0.3%)	2 (0.5%)	3 / (1 %)
Behavioural processes	**0**	**0**	**0**
Σ / (%)	211 / (54%)	178 / (46%)	391/ (100%)

Table (3) above shows that material processes are the most frequent with a distribution of 47 %, whereas mental processes come next with 21 %, followed by the verbalization processes with 18 %, then relational processes with 13 %, then the existential processes with only 1 %. No single instance is found for the behavioural processes in the Arabic texts. Figure (3) below further illustrates the distribution of transitivity processes in representing Para Athletes in the selected Arabic texts.
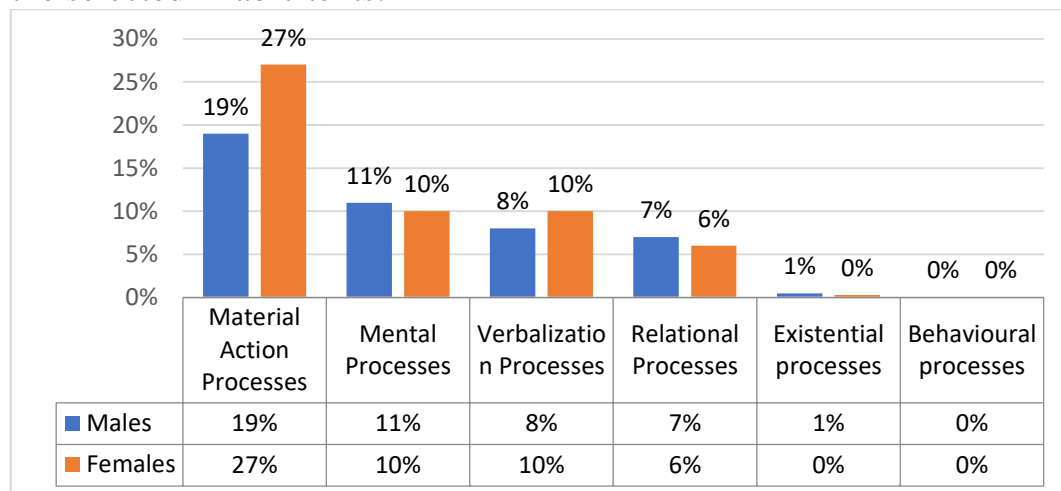

	Material Action Processes	Mental Processes	Verbalization Processes	Relational Processes	Existential processes	Behavioural processes
Males	19%	11%	8%	7%	1%	0%
Females	27%	10%	10%	6%	0%	0%

Figure (3): Transitivity in Representing Para Athlete sin the Arabic Texts.

It is clear from Figure (3) above that the material, mental, verbal, and relational processes have the largest prevalence in representing Para Athletes and as a result they should receive the main attention in the analysis of the selected texts. The distribution illustrated in Table (4) below reveals that both female and male Para Athletes are activated in terms of their allocated roles.

Table (4): The Distribution of Transitivity Role Allocation in the Arabic Texts.

Role Allocation												
Halliday (1985, 1994) and Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, 2014)												
G	**Activation**						**Passivation**					**Σ**
							Subjected			**Beneficialised**		
	Actor	**Senser**	**Token**	**Carrier**	**Sayer**	**Existent**	**Goal**	**Phenom**	**Carrier (effective attributive)**	**Recipient**	**Target**	
F	70	36	10	15	39	1	17	3	6	14	2	213/
	171 (43%)						42 (11%)					(54%)
M	47	29	13	14	30	2	10	15	7	11	0	178/
	135 (35%)						43 (11%)					(46%)
Σ / (%)	306 (78%)						85 (22%)					391 / (100%)

Table (4) above illustrates 391 instances of activation (Appendix 12) with a distribution of 78 % of the total roles allocated to Para Athletes, and 85 instances of passivation with a distribution of 22 %. It indicates that Para Athletes are highly activated in the Arabic texts as further illustrated in Figure (4) below.
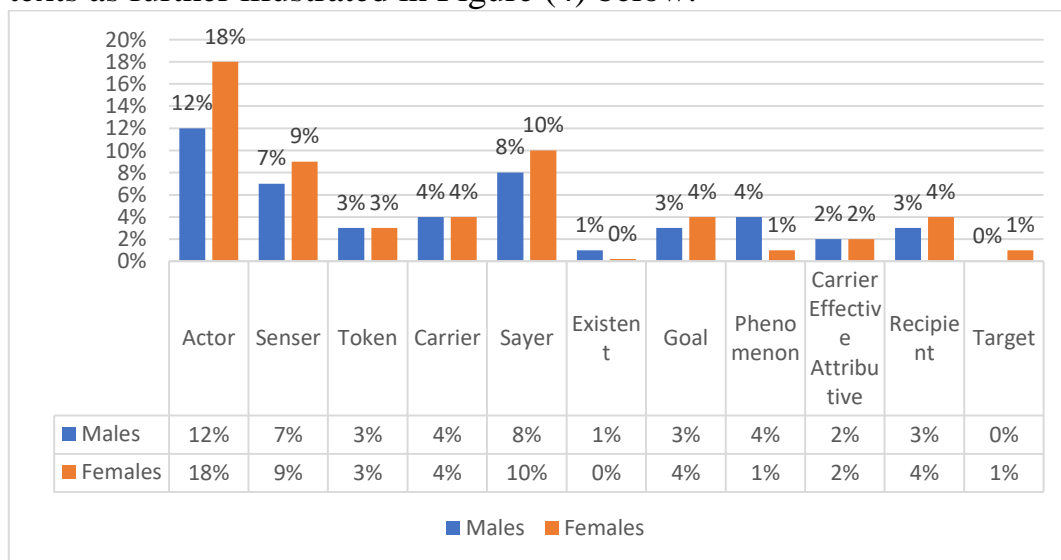

Figure (4): Role Allocations in the Arabic Texts.

To further elaborate on the results reported above, the following sub-sections present Para Athletes in terms of transitivity sub-categories of both the English and Arabic texts.

4.3 Role Allocation (rearrangement)

As shown in Table (5) below, among the different roles allocated through the Material Processes in both languages, Para Athletes are mostly activated as Actors with a distribution of 83% for the English texts and 73% for the Arabic texts. The statistical findings indicate that Para Athletes are represented in the English texts as Actors relatively more than their representation in the Arabic texts (Appendices 12.1 and 12.2).

Table (5): The Distribution of Material Processes in the English and Arabic Texts.

G	English					Arabic				
	Actor	**Goal**	**Carrier**	**Recipient**	**Σ/%**	**Actor**	**Goal**	**Carrier**	**Recipient**	**Σ/%**
F	89 / (41%)	10 / (5%)	0	11 / (5%)	110 / (51%)	70/ (**43%**)	**17** / (6%)	6 / (4%)	14 / (7%)	107 / (60%)
M	90 / (42%)	4 / (2%)	6 / (3%)	5 / (2%)	105 / (49%)	47 / (**30%**)	**10** / (2%)	7 / (4%)	11 / (3%)	75 / (40%)
M&F Σ / (%)	**179/ (83%)**	**14 / (7%)**	**6 / (2%)**	**16 / (7%)**	**215/ (100%)**	**117 / (73%)**	**14 / (9%)**	**13 / (8%)**	**16 / (10%)**	**182 / (100%)**

It can be noted that while both females and males are almost equal in their Actor roles in the English texts, the Arabic texts reveal a relative preference for representing females as Actors more than their male counterparts. Figure (5) below further illustrates these distributions.
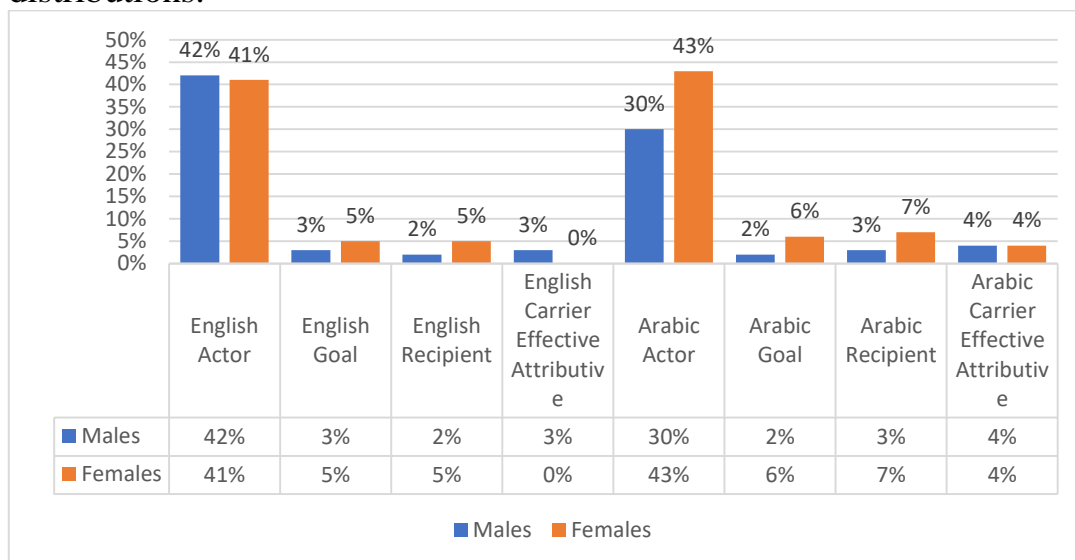

Figure (5): Material Processes in the English and Arabic Texts.

Figure (5) above reflects a difference between the two languages in terms of activation and passivation. The tendency in the Arabic texts might be a reaction to the assumption that female Para Athletes face double discrimination based on their gender and disabilities. Thus, the agency of females needs to be more represented. Therefore, in terms of textual agency, The Para Athletic Identity (PAI) of both females and males tend to have equal in the English texts, whereas in the Arabic texts, the females' PAI tends to be stronger than the males. Such a result contrasts Guerrero and Martin's (2018) study in which he claims that PAI tends to be stronger among men versus women.

This activation is carried out across two levels; the ability to achieve sporting excellence and the ability to establish their social identity as active rather than passive participants. The sporting achievements and successes challenge the dominant societal expectations of PWDs. The active roles assigned to Para Athletes reveal the desire to place them into agent positions to disclose their identity as powerful social actors who can bring about social change in their lives. This type of activation corresponds to the findings of Smith, et al. (2016), who concluded that all participants adopt an athletic identity and an athletic activist identity. This representation is at the heart of the Affirmative model of disability, reflecting the integration between positive disability identity (social concept) and athletic identity (Paralympic ability concept) to produce the Para Athletic Identity (PAI) of Para Athletes.

4.3.1 Mental Processes

Table (6) below illustrates that among the different roles allocated through the Mental Processes in both languages, Para Athletes are mostly activated as Senser with a distribution of 87% for the English texts and 78% for the Arabic texts (Appendices 12.3 and 12.4). In terms of gender, it seems that females and males in the English texts are almost equally represented as Sensers with 48% and 50%. However, females in the Arabic texts seem to be represented as Senser more than males amounting to 43% and 35% respectively (Appendices 9, 22).

Table (6): The Distribution of Mental Processes in the English and Arabic Texts.

G	English			Arabic		
	Senser	Phenomenon	Σ/(%)	Senser	Phenomenon	Σ/(%)
F Σ/(%)	60/ (48%)	0	60 / (48%)	36/ (43%)	3/ (4%)	39 / (47%)
M Σ/(%)	64/ (50%)	3 / (2%)	67/ (52%)	29/ (35%)	15/ (18%)	44/ (53%)
M& F Σ / (%)	124 / (87%)	3/ (13%)	127/ (100%)	65/ (78%)	18 /(22%)	83/(100%)

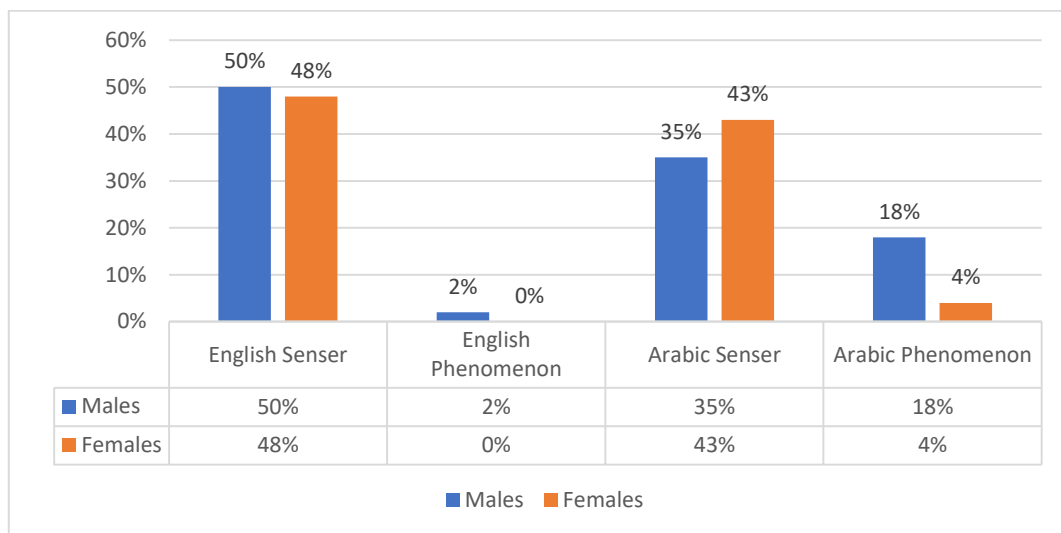Figure (6) below further illustrates the variations shown in Table (6) above.

Figure (6): Mental Processes in the English and Arabic Texts.

It can be noted that while both females and males are almost equal in their Senser roles in the English texts, the Arabic texts reveal a relative preference for representing the females as Senser more than their male counterparts. This indicates a difference between the two languages in terms of gender activation and passivation. It shows that female Para Athletes are more motivated and enthusiastic to be Para Athletes since Para sports include them within similar groups and liberate them from some social barriers. In the English texts, among the Mental Processes used to represent Para Athletes, the MCs constitute 69% of the overall mental processes. The MCs are distributed as 35% for females and 34 % for males. In the second place, the MRs form 26 %, distributed evenly for females and males with 13 % each. On the other hand, in the Arabic texts, among the Mental Processes used to represent Para Athletes, the MRs comprise 40 % of the overall mental processes. The MPs are distributed as 17% for the females and 23% for the males. The MRs and the MCs equally follow with a distribution of 30 % each. The distribution of the MRs is 14% for females and 16 % for males, whereas the MCs' distribution is equal for females and males with 15 % each. It can be noted that in the English texts, the MC Processes have the greatest share among the three types of mental processes, whereas in Arabic, the MR processes are the dominant ones.

With regard to the difference in the employment of the MCs and the MPs between the English and the Arabic texts, it seems that Para Athletes are represented as able to form beliefs and make decisions in the English texts, whereas in the Arabic texts, Para Athletes are primarily represented in contact with their present surroundings (Sydhagen, 2017: 1). This can be attributed to the kind of occasions during which the representations are delivered, making Para Athletes in the English texts are more concerned in reflecting their ideas and

beliefs and less concerned in reflecting their feelings and emotions regarding their engagement in Para sport, which is in contrast to the situation of Para Athletes. However, in both languages, as Table (58) illustrates, Para Athletes are also represented by other mental processes, though to a lesser extent, reflecting their mental activation in the general sense. The use of mental processes can be attributed to the Para Athletes' desire to convey their positive thoughts and sentiments regarding their success, professionalism, and satisfaction. In other words, Para Athletes are activated as Sensers who positively react, perceive, and think. Again, themes of the Affirmative model of disability are realized through activating Para Athletes by means of their allocated roles as Sensers.
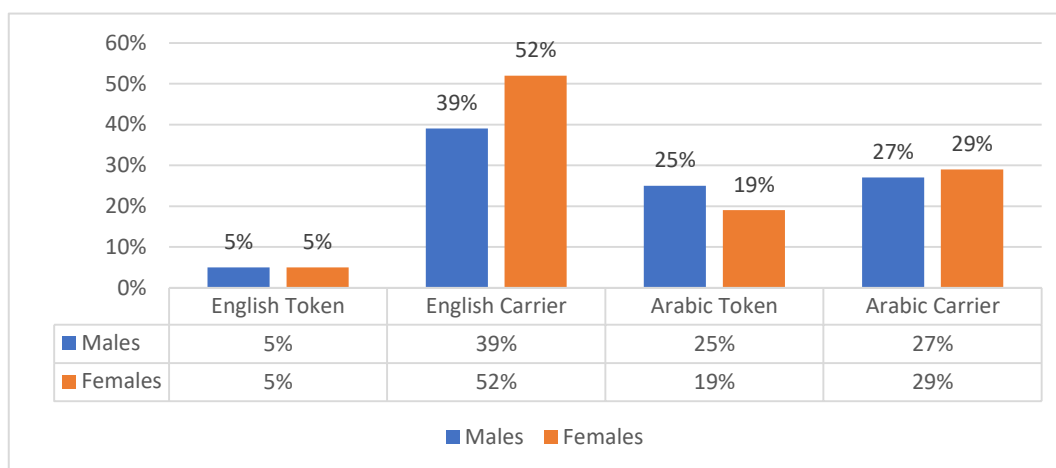
4.3.2 Relational Processes

As shown in Table (7) below, among the two roles allocated through the Relational Processes in both languages, Para Athletes are primarily activated as Carriers with a distribution of 90% for the English texts and 56% for the Arabic texts. The statistical distributions indicate that Para Athletes are represented in the English texts as Carriers significantly more than their representation in the Arabic texts. Conversely, Para Athletes are represented as Token with a distribution of 44%, whereas Para Athletes in the English texts are less represented as Token with only 10%). This means that the English text producers are more concerned with representing the qualities of Para Athletes, i.e., their athletic abilities. In contrast, the Arabic text producers are more oriented towards identifying these people in a similar amount of representing their qualities. This indicates that Para Athletes in the English texts are more popular worldwide than Para Athletes in the Arabic texts.

Regarding gender, it seems that the females in the English texts are represented as Carriers with 52% more than their male counterparts amounting to 39%. On the other hand, in the Arabic texts, males are relatively higher in their Token role with 25%, whereas females' Token roles amount to 19% as Token (Appendices 9, 22).

Table (7): The Distribution of Relational Processes in the English and Arabic Texts.

G	English			Arabic		
	Token	Carrier	Σ/ (%)	Token	Carrier	Σ/(%)
F Σ/ (%)	3/ (5%)	33 / (52%)	36 / (57%)	10 / (19%)	15 / (29%)	25 / (48 %)
M Σ/(%)	3 / (5%)	26 / (39%)	29 / (43%)	13 / (25%)	14 / (27%)	27/ (53%)
M& F Σ / (%)	6 / (10%)	56/ (90%)	65 /(100%)	23 / (44%)	29 / (56%)	52 /(100%)

Figure (7) below further illustrates these variations.

Figure (7): Relational Processes in the English and Arabic Texts.

In the English texts, Para Athletes (both males and females) are represented mainly by means of their attributes, i.e., primarily by intensive attributes and, to a lesser extent, by circumstantial and possessive attributes. The attributive processes seem to compromise five qualities ascribed to Para Athletes in the English texts. These are passions, athleticism, competencies, disabilities, and appraisement (Appendices 12.5 and 12.6). However, female Para Athletes seem to be more Carriers of such attributes than males as illustrated in Figure (7) above. It might be due to the aim of the Paralympic movement towards enhancing a more sport-female inclusive attitude.

On the other hand, though relatively more represented as Carrier, Para Athletes are also significantly represented as Token. When Carrier, Para Athletes are ascribed qualities of passion, ability, sporting excellence, and overcoming negative social expectations. When Token, Para Athletes are defined as athletes, champions, and holders of social roles other than sport. In the general sense of the relational processes in both languages, the contribution of a Para Athlete's position as a Paralympian and/or a carrier of the Paralympian

attributes to an identity transformation from a disability identity to an AI is one of the elements in the identity transformation. This advancement in AI is the product of years of experience gained via accomplishments and skills while competing at the professional level.

4.3.3 Verbalization Processes

Table (8) below illustrates that among the different roles allocated through the Verbalization Processes in both languages, Para Athletes are significantly and evenly activated as Sayer with a distribution of 97% each. However, regarding gender, it seems that the males in the English texts are represented as Sayer more than their female counterparts with a distribution of 55% for the former and 42% for the latter. In contrast, the females seem to be represented as Sayer more than the males with 55% for the former and 42% for the latter in the Arabic texts (Appendices 9, 22).

Table (8): The Distribution of Verbalization Processes in the English and Arabic Texts.

G	English			Arabic		
	Sayer	Target	Σ/(%)	Sayer	Target	Σ/(%)
F Σ/(%)	27/ (42%)	2 / (3%)	29 / (45%)	39 / (55%)	2 / (3%)	41 / (58%)
M Σ/(%)	35 / (55%)	0 / (0)	35 / (55%)	30 / (42%)	0 / (0)	30 / (42%)
M& F Σ / (%)	62 / (97%)	2 / (3%)	64 / (100%)	69 / (97%)	2 / (3%)	71 / (100%)

Figure (66) below further illustrates the variations shown in Table (60) above.

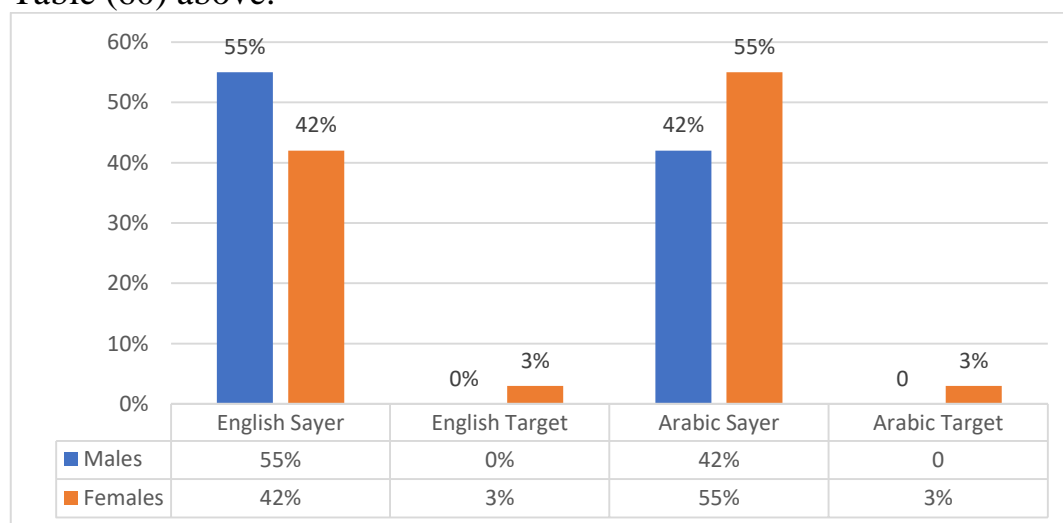|	English Sayer	English Target	Arabic Sayer	Arabic Target
Males	55%	0%	42%	0
Females	42%	3%	55%	3%

Figure (7): Verbalization Processes in the English and Arabic Texts.

Being Sayers to speak about their sport achievements and other issues related to Para sport and their social activities means that they can express themselves in a way that reflects their ability for self-direction, which is essential for developing a capable representation. Evidently, Para Athletes often play active roles in their articles as Sayers. This interpretation corresponds to the findings of Kim, et al. (2017) that enthusiasm is most often emphasized in situations where Para athletes are the primary source of information.

5. Textual Identity and Representation

The textual analysis reveals that the English and the Arabic magazines represent Para Athletes in such a way that can be described as progressive and optimistic through the positive choices of the TCF of transitivity in terms of which, in both languages, Para Athletes are materially, mentally, relationally and verbally empowered as Actors, Sensers, Carriers, and Sayers. Through this textual function, the concept of motion is mostly dominant by placing Para Athletes into agent positions emphasizing their diligent representation. They are represented as powerful social actors. This concept is at the heart of the Affirmative model of disability which reflects on the integration between positive disability identity (social concept) and athletic identity (Paralympic ability concept) to produce the PAI of Para Athletes. Thus, Para Athletes' identity (PAI) indicates their independence and power potential. This discourse, then, brings about the inspiration that the inconceivable is actually viable. In other words, Para Athletes can represent a successful model of PWDs and as a result the media can play an important role in their portrayal of PWDs in a more positive way than the stereotypical representation followed in the traditional media.

6. Gender Identity and Representation

With respect to the representation of gender, the analysis of the selected English magazines reveals that the females are less represented than their male counterparts in most of their textual representations, whereas the female representation, in the selected Arabic magazines, indicates a privilege over the representation of their male counterparts. These differences are distributed all through the TCF of transitivity. Figures (63), (64), (65) and (66) above show that in the English texts, the females and males are found equal in terms of their allocated roles as Actor and Senser, however, the transitivity distribution shows that females as Carrier are higher, but as Sayer, they are found lower than the males. Conversely, in the Arabic texts, the roles of Actor, Senser and Sayer are assigned to the females more than the males. The females are also equal in fulfilling the Carrier role.

It can be noted that the females in the Arabic magazines occupy more representation than their female counterparts in the English ones. In other words, in the English magazines, the males are more represented than their female counterparts in terms of Sayer role. On the other hand, in the Arabic magazines, the males are more represented than their female counterparts in terms of …

In all of other types of representation, the females are represented as equal or more than their male counterparts. It follows that the males are privileged over the females in the English magazines, whereas in the Arabic ones, the females have the privilege of affirmative representation.

7. Conclusions

In the TCF of transitivity of both languages, Para Athletes are mostly activated as Actors, Sensers, Carriers, and Sayers. They are Actors by virtue of their ability to achieve sporting excellence, and the ability to establish their social identity as active rather than passive participants. As Sensers, Para Athletes are activated as persons who positively react to, perceive, and think of their success, professionalism, and satisfaction. As Carriers, in both languages, Para Athletes are mostly ascribed intensive attributes of passions, athleticism, competencies, and disabilities. In the selected Arabic texts, the attribute of overcoming negative social expectations is included. Arab Para Athletes are also defined as Token who are identified as athletes, champions, and holders of social roles other than sport. Also, in both languages, Para Athletes are commonly used as Sayers when demonstrating their ability to express themselves. However, the results show disparity in the distribution of these agent roles in terms of gender. In the English texts, males are represented as Sensers and Sayers more than their female counterparts and less as Carriers. Males are represented as almost equal with their female counterparts as Actors and Tokens. On the other hand, in the Arabic texts, males are represented more than their female counterparts only as Tokens whereas females are higher as Actors, Sensers, Carriers, and Sayers. This conclusion validates the hypothesis that both the English and Arabic texts tend to assign agent roles to Para Athletes with varied gender preferences.

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Appendices

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1R2ChjkdOHylAVssHCXKD4bwWrhroPn-3/edit?usp=share_link&ouid=10914783682931098642&rtpof=true&sd=true

المستخلص

يستخدم هذا المقال إحدى الأدوات الاسلوبية النقدية لجيفريز (٢٠١٠) وهي الوظيفة المفاهيمية النصية (TCF) للتعدي النصي لتمثيل الافعال / الأحداث / والحالات لدراسة طريقة البناء اللغوي لهوية الذكور والاناث من الرياضيين البارالمبيين كفاعلين اجتماعيين في مجلات رياضية مختارة باللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية. ويهدف إلى تحديد الاستراتيجيات الأسلوبية المستخدمة في هذه المجلات المختارة في تمثيلها النصي لبناء هوية الرياضيين البارالمبيين وتأثير الجندر والإعاقة في هذا التمثيل. وتركز الدراسة على تحليل ١٠ مقالات إنجليزية و ١٠ مقالات عربية من مجلات إنجليزية وعربية تتعلق بمجال الرياضة البارالمبية صدرت بين عامي ٢٠١٦ و٢٠٢٠. ولتحقيق أهداف البحث، تفترض الدراسة أن كلا النصين الإنجليزي والعربي يميلان إلى تعيين أدوار الفاعل للرياضيين البارالمبيين مع الاختلاف بين الجنسين. تُظهر نتائج هذه الدراسة أن المجلات المختارة تقوم بتفعيل دور الرياضيين البارالمبيين في محاولة لنقل الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة (PWDs) من الهامش إلى الواجهة كفاعلين اجتماعيين. ومع ذلك، تشير النتائج أيضا إلى تمثيل تفاضلي للرياضيين البارالمبيين من حيث الجندر حيث إن النصوص الإنجليزية والعربية تخصص أدوار الفاعل للرياضيين البارالمبيين، لكن النصوص الإنجليزية تسند دور المستشعر والمتكلم بشكل اساسي للرياضي البارالمبي بينما تسند النصوص العربية دور المستشعر والمتكلم للذكور بشكل أساسي، بينما تسند النصوص العربية دور الفاعل والمستشعر والمتكلم للإناث اكثر من الذكور. وهذا يتعارض مع المعتقدات الشائعة المتمثلة في استبعاد مساهمة المرأة في المجتمع والتقليل من شأنها، مشيرا إلى أن بأماكنها ان تلعب دورا وظيفيا مهما في المجتمع مثل الرجل، بغض النظر عن الوضع الاجتماعي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: ١. تحليل اسلوبي نقدي ٢. الفاعلين الاجتماعيين ٣. تمثيل ٤. التعدي ٥. الرياضيين البارالمبيين ٥. الرياضة البارالمبية