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### Representative Speech Act in Arabic News Discourse: Study on Aljazeera and Al-Ahram

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#### ABSTRACT

Covid-19 pandemic has caused many pros and cons which are mainly represented in the news in the mass media. Therefore, this study aims to observe how the mass media from Arab countries represent their position towards the Covid-19 pandemic through the news they release. In this study, the data is retrieved from Aljazeera and Al-Ahram. To find out their thoughts and opinions regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, the representative speech act framework presented by Yule (1996) and Searle (1979) is used. Meanwhile, the descriptive-analytical method on that news is relied, starting from providing data, classifying, analyzing, and presenting the results of the analysis. The result shows that there are four types of representative speech acts found in the Arabic news discourse, they are statement of fact, assertion, conclusion, and description. The writers represent their thoughts and opinions by choosing certain verbs or cognate objects, either agreeing or disputing some opinions, as well as citing various news sources or events that are considered valid and credible. Moreover, the comparison of the results from the two news sources did not show a significant difference because the language of these two newspapers is the Modern Standard Arabic (MSA).

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#### Keyword

Arabic News Discourse; Covid-19; Pragmatics; Representative Speech Act

#### مستخلص البحث

تسبب جائحة كوفيد-19 في العديد من الإيجابيات والسلبيات التي تتمثل بشكل رئيسي في وسائل الإعلام. فلذلك، تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى ملاحظة كيفية تمثيل وسائل الإعلام في الدول العربية لموقفها من جائحة كوفيد-19 من خلال الأخبار التي تنشرها. وفي هذه الدراسة أخذنا البيانات من صحيفتي الجزيرة والأهرام. أما لمعرفة أفكارهم وآرائهم بشأن جائحة كوفيد-19، استخدمنا نظرية الفعل الكلامي التمثيلي الذي قدمه Yule (1996) و Searle (1979) واعتمدنا على الأسلوب الوصفي التحليلي في تلك الأخبار، بدءاً من توفير البيانات وتصنيفها وتحليلها وتقديم نتائج التحليل. وأظهرت النتائج أن هناك أربعة أنواع من أفعال الكلام التمثيلي الموجودة في الخطاب الإخباري العربي، وهي بيان الحقيقة، والتأكيد، والاستنتاج، والوصف. وفي الوقت نفسه، يمثل الكتاب أفكارهم وآرائهم عن طريق اختيار أفعال معينة أو تعبيرات أخرى، إما الموافقة أو التنازع على بعض الآراء، وكذلك الاستشهاد بمصادر الأخبار المختلفة أو الأحداث التي تعتبر صحيحة وذات مصداقية. علاوة على ذلك، لم تظهر مقارنة النتائج من المصدرين الإخباريين فرقاً كبيراً لأن لغة هاتين الصحيفتين هي اللغة العربية الفصحى الحديثة.

جائحة كوفيد-19؛ خطاب الأخبار العربية؛ التداولية؛ فعل الكلام التمثيلي

كلمات أساسية

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## INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 is an irresistible infection brought about by a newfound type of coronavirus (WHO, 2020). Most people infected with Covid-19 experience mild symptoms and recover without a specific treatment. Many people who are infected, show no symptoms and recover without knowing that they are infected. (WHO, 2020). The infection has made remarkable interruption on human culture's lifestyle. Individuals' lives and occupations have been influenced and the instructive, financial, and wellbeing frameworks of nations have been put under strain (Ebrahim, 2020; Ogierman & Bella, 2021).

With these remarkable influences, as a transmitter of information, the mass media must provide accurate, correct, valid, and reliable information about the Covid-19 pandemic and various matters related to it. However, it is undeniable that the mass media response towards Covid-19 is diversified, including undeniably fake news, domination or sentiment in certain sectors or issues, and so on.

Mass media has a vital role and cannot be separated from important aspects of people's social life, including as a transmitter of information and its distribution (Nugroho et al, 2020; Riduan 2021; Safitri & Fauzi, 2021). The mass media is also considered to have the advantage of being able to influence the human mind, and can even change their lifestyle, both in a positive and negative direction. According to McQuail (2010), there are six points of view to uncover the role of mass media, they are (1) as a window on event and experience (2) as a reflection of the event in the public arena and the world, inferring a reliable reflection, (3) as a channel or guard to choose which event or data that is suitable to accept or not, (4) as an aide, (5) as a form to give some data and thoughts for society to give them the motivation to make reactions to specific issues, and (6) as interlocutor. Based on this, accuracy, balance, and objectivity in any information published in the mass media are necessary, especially regarding the news about the current Covid-19 outbreak.

Consequently, to find out the attitudes, positions, and partialities of the mass media regarding the global Covid-19 pandemic, which is still ongoing throughout the world, it is necessary to conduct an analysis of representative speech acts on news discourse related to this pandemic. The news discourse referred to in this context relates to various information dissemination, handling efforts, and other issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Representative speech acts are speech acts that are bound to the truth conveyed, so that speakers have a commitment to the truth of their propositional content (Searle, 1969; Searle, 1979; Flowerdew, 1991; Yule, 1996; Qadir & Riloff, 2011; Ballmer & Brennenstuhl, 1981). Thus, this speech act cannot be separated from the facts or evidence of the truth contained in the speaker's utterance.

Based on the context of this research, to find out the position of the Arab mass media on the global Covid-19 pandemic, it is necessary to examine the use of language in the news they have released. The study includes the use of linguistic expressions in news discourse that can represent their ideas.

Numerous studies have attempted to explain the mass media coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic. Among those studies, there are Sciortino and Saini (2020) who have observed the news narrative as the media's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Southeast Asia. The results show that the growing news narrative about Covid-19 in the Region is dominated by information about the number of infected cases and deaths, the estimated economic impact. Attention regarding the numerous social and social components of the emergency, and humanities and sociology specialists stay at the edges of control choices. However, this study does not specifically observe the representation, position, or alignment of the news in that newspaper against the Covid-19 pandemic, but rather describes the dominance of the news narrative in a region, namely Southeast Asia.

Furthermore, Bangani (2021) highlighted the rise of waves of fake news on the Internet, both on social media and from various channels of online news sites in South Africa as well as observing the struggles of academics in their efforts to tackle misinformation. The results of this investigation confirm the job of libraries in South Africa and different nations in the battle against counterfeit news. This investigation brought the point of view of the southern part of the world to the talk about counterfeit news and laid out the reactions of scholarly libraries to the COVID-19 infodemic. From this explanation, it is known that this research does not highlight the representation, position, or partiality of certain news regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, but rather explains the rise of fake news and the efforts of academics in dealing with it.

On the other hand, Al-Ghamdi (2021) researched the ideological representation of fear and hope in online newspaper reports on Covid-19 in Saudi Arabia. The study adopts critical discourse analysis (CDA) of Van Dijk's tripartite framework of news text structure and production at microstructure level and Fairclough's insights on the interactivity between language and social cognition in the process of producing and interpreting texts. The findings show that most of the reports on COVID-19 heavily rely on foregrounding evidentiality of statistics of new and cumulative infections as well as recoveries and deaths. Evidentiality strategy often overlaps with categorization strategy as proof of the threat of the virus which is broken down into units, each with its features and evidence. Authority strategy is used to support statistics with verifiable sources. Similarly, in representing hope to the population, two strategies of evidentiality and authority are often used. Evidentiality strategy is employed to clear off doubts

through for grounding statistics of growing recoveries, comparisons and underrepresentation of infection cases and mortality and sometimes choice of verbs plays a role in imparting hope in the residents. Authority strategy is deployed to give some weight to the ideology inherent in the report.

Previous studies have also explored regarding the representative speech acts, among others, is that conducted by Orin & Issy (2016) in their paper entitled "Representative Speech Acts Performed by The Debaters In An English Debate Competition". The results of this study indicate that there are twelve types of representative speech acts in the debate. The analysis of the opponent's response results shows that the highest opponent's response is the act of "arguing" compared to other actions. This means that the debaters try to embrace and persuade the listener so that the listener can understand and trust the speaker's feelings. Finally, representative speech acts on the development of arguments in debates show that the highest frequency distribution of representative speech acts is 46.1%. Followed by example 19.4% and tie-back 18.1%. The small frequency distribution of the representative speech acts in the argument structure is 16.3%. Thus, speakers from the affirmative team managed to take advantage of the favourable context of their speech to persuade their listeners.

Faramide, et al. (2019) has conducted a research entitled "Actions of Representative Speech on Instagram Captions". Based on the research, the data obtained are 65 data with the classification of 26 data representative speech acts stating, 12 data representative speech acts telling, 20 data representative speech acts suggesting, 3 data representative speech act complaining, 3 data representative speech act complaining, 4 data representative speech acts make. Representative speech acts of demanding and reporting were not found in this study. The function of the representative speech act is found in the Instagram caption, namely 7 functions of the representative speech act stating, 4 functions of the representative speech act telling, 3 functions of the speech act expressing an opinion or suggesting, 2 functions of the representative speech act complaining, and the representative speech act making 2 function. The speech act function obtained is the speech act function in accordance with the data that has been obtained.

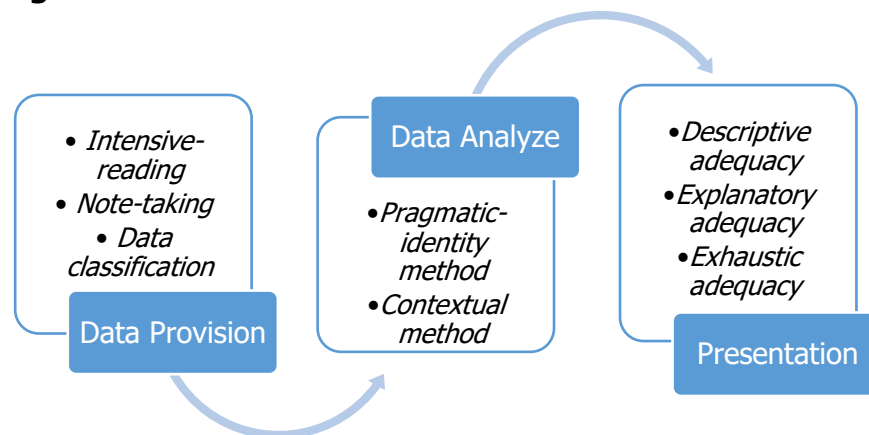
Based on the results of these studies, it is known that research or studies on representative speech acts in Arabic news discourse related to the Covid-19 pandemic have not received the attention of academics, so it is still possible to study and explore in more depth. Thus, the purpose of this study is to describe and interpret the ideas, thoughts, views, and opinions of editors from the mass media of Arab countries about the Covid-19 pandemic through the news discourse that they have released. In addition, this study also aims to explain the

representative speech act expressions or markers contained in those Arabic news discourse.

## METHOD

This research is a descriptive-qualitative research that aims to reveal events, facts, circumstances, phenomena, variables, or circumstances that occurred during the research by presenting what actually happened (Mohajan, 2018). In this context, the researcher tries to analyze and describe in depth the ideas, thoughts, and opinions of the editors of a mass media through the Arabic-language news discourse about the Covid-19 pandemic released by the media using the theory of representative speech acts. The data in this study were obtained from each of 50 Arabic news discourses about Covid-19 published in Al Jazeera and Al-Ahram in late 2020 to early 2021 using purposive sampling techniques.

The research stages start from providing data, classifying, analyzing, and presenting the results of the analysis. In general, these stages are presented simply in **Figure 1** below:



**Figure 1. Research Stages**

At the data provision stage, the combination of intensive and extensive reading of Arabic news discourse about Covid-19 published in predetermined data sources was implemented. Because the researchers were not directly involved in the formation and appearance of prospective data formed from the linguistic event to be studied (only as observers), the observation method used was a free-engagement (Sudaryanto, 1988). The use of this observation method is then followed up with a note-taking technique by compiling them into a data corpus. Furthermore, data classification was carried out based on the framework of the

types of representative speech acts proposed by Yule (1996), namely statement of fact, assertion, conclusion, and description.

Furthermore, at the data analysis stage, the identity and contextual methods are utilized. In this case, the pragmatic identity method is used by emphasizing the analysis of the pragmatic function of an utterance or sentence (Sudaryanto, 1993). Meanwhile, contextual analysis is applied to the data by considering and linking the speech to be studied with the context (Rahardi, 2005). The sentences in the Arabic news discourse about Covid-19 that have been classified at the data collection stage are then elaborated to find out the composition of the discourse contained in the sentence, including speech information, pragmatic markers, and the context of the speech. Thus, the representation of news writers' ideas and ideas about various things related to Covid-19 can be clearly observed.

At the presentation stage, the result of the analysis is presented descriptively with ordinary words according to what is produced from the analysis process by fulfilling the principles of descriptive adequacy, explanatory adequacy, and exhaustive adequacy. The presentation of the findings in tabular form is also provided to strengthen the arguments from the research results that have been formulated.

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

### **Representative Speech Act in Arabic News Discourse**

As stated in the introduction, Searle (1979) states that a representative speech act is a speech act that binds the speaker to the truth of something said and aims at acceptance. In this case, the truth expressed by the speaker requires evidence that is considered valid, both from quotes from experts or sources, quotes from authorized official institutions, quotes from other news sources, and or can even come from personal beliefs from speakers based on the logic of conclusions that develop in the world in general. Meanwhile, Yule (1996) states that this type of speech act is the kind of speech acts that state what the speaker believes to be the case or not. In other words, representative speech acts express the world; they depend on the mental state of belief (Tsoumou, 2020). The kind of informative response anticipated from the listener is an acknowledgment which may not be only certain however can be ranged from complete to fractional and disapproval.

Based on the analysis of the data that has been obtained, it is known that there are four types of representative speech acts based on the theoretical framework presented by Yule (1996) and Searle (1979), they are (1) statement



of fact, (2) assertion, (3) conclusion, and (4) description. Here is the explanation on each type:

### **Statement of Fact**

The purpose of statement of fact is to inform, report, and convince the listeners about a truth case with the definite or clear expression as an effort to make them believe (Alawi, 2013). Expressions related to this type of speech act include telling, saying, informing, stating, predicting, denying, correcting, expressing, representing, recommending, showing, drawing, and so on (Yule, 1996; Ballmer & Brennenstuhl, 1981). Consider the sentence (1) below:

(١) أفادت دراسة مختبرية أجرتها شركة فايزر الأمريكية أن اللقاح الذي طورته مع شركة بيونتيك للوقاية من مرض كوفيد-١٩ فعال فيما يبدو في مواجهة تحور أساسي في سلالات جديدة سريعة الانتشار من فيروس كورونا

*/afādat dirāsatur mukhtabariyatun ajarrathā syarikatu fāizr al-amrīkiyyatu anna al-liqācha al-ladzi thawwarathu ma'a syarikati biyūntik li al-wiqāyati min maradhi kūfid-19 fa'alun fimā yabdū fī muwājahati tachawwurin asāsiyyin fī salālātin jadīdatin sarī'ati al-intisyāri min firūsi kūrūnā/*

- (1) "A laboratory study conducted by the American company Pfizer **stated** that the vaccine developed with Biontech to prevent Covid-19 disease appears to be effective against an essential mutation in new, fast-spreading strains of the Corona virus" (*Al-Ahram, 8th January 2021*)

Sentence (1) contains a representative speech act in the statement of fact category. This can be identified from the presence of several discourse components such as speech act markers in the verb أفادت "afādat" which have the meaning of "reported" or "stated", information regarding the vaccines developed by Biontech, and the source of information that is used as a reference by the news writer, namely, a laboratory study conducted by Pfizer (an American company). In this context, the writer represents his idea regarding the truth of a fact about effectiveness of the Covid-19 vaccines developed by Biontech from a valid and reliable source, that is a report of laboratory study conducted by Pfizer. Moreover, the writer is not giving a subjective personal statement.

The structure of the discourse can be outlined simply as follows:

<i>Speech Act Marker</i>	أفادت "Reported; Stated"
<i>Fact/ Information</i>	اللقاح الذي طورته مع شركة بيونتيك للوقاية من مرض كوفيد-19 فعال فيما يبدو..... "The vaccine developed with Biontech to prevent Covid-19 disease appears to be effective....."
<i>Source of Fact</i>	دراسة مختبرية أجرتها شركة فايزر الأمريكية "A laboratory study conducted by the American company Pfizer"

### Assertion

The purpose of assertion is to convey some sensitivity to other person; to give the stressing to the listeners that the utterances is important, to express negative feelings, to express a wish and pretension, or to emphasize a wished attitude of listeners (Alawi, 2013). Some expressions regarding this type of speech act are asserting, believing, agreeing, assuring, reminding, confirming; claiming, insisting, arguing, justifying, appending, and so on (Yule, 1996; Ballmer & Brennenstuhl, 1981). Consider the sentence (2) below:

(٢) وفي ١٣ مارس الماضي، وعدت حكومة الوحدة الوطنية بتوفير لقاحات "كورونا"

لجميع المواطنين والمقيمين بأسرع وقت، **مؤكدَةً** أن توفيرها أولوية

*/Wa fī 12 mārīs al-mādihī, wa'adat chukūmatu al-wichdati al-wathaniyyati bi tawfīri liqāchātī "kūrūnā" li jamī'i al-muwāthinīna wa al-muqīmīna bi asrā'i waqtin, mu`akkidatan anna tawfīrahā aulawīyatun/*

(2) "On March 13, the National Unity Government promised to provide "Corona" vaccines to all citizens and residents as soon as possible, **stressing** that providing them is a priority" (*Aljazeera, 5th April 2021*)

Sentence (2) contains a representative speech act in the assertion category. This can be recognized from the presence of several discourse components including speech act markers in the cognate object (*al-maf'ul al-muthlaq*) مؤكدة *"mu`akkadatan"* which have the meaning of "stressing" or "asserting", information regarding the priority of providing Corona vaccines to all citizens and residents, and the source of information that is mentioned as a reference by the news writer, namely, the National Unity Government (of Libya). In this context, the writer emphasizes to the readers that the information regarding the priority of the provision of Corona vaccines is important. To strengthen this, the source or evidence that is considered valid and accepted by the reader (the public) is



presented. The structure of the discourse of sentence (2) can be described simply as follows:

<i>Speech Act Marker</i>	مؤكدة "Asserting; Stressing; Confirming"
<i>Fact/ Information</i>	توفيرها (لقاحات "كورونا" لجميع المواطنين والمقيمين) أولوية "Providing them (Corona vaccines to all citizens and residents) is a priority"
<i>Source of Fact</i>	حكومة الوحدة الوطنية "The National Unity Government"

### Conclusion

The purpose of conclusion is to synthesize the discussed topic; to stress the importance of a thesis statement; to give a sense of completeness and leave a final impression to the listeners (Alawi, 2013). Some expressions that express this speech act include reporting, concluding, guessing, inferring, and so on (Yule, 1996; Ballmer & Brennenstuhl, 1981). Consider the following example:

(٣) ونقلت شبكة "ان دي تي في" الهندية عن الوزارة القول، إنه تم تسجيل ٢٧٩ حالة

وفاة بالفيروس، ليبلغ إجمالي حالات الوفاة ١٤٧ ألفا و ٩٠١ حالة

*/ Wa naqalat syabakatu "NDTV" al-hindiyyati 'an al-wizārati al-qauli, innahu tamma tasjīli 279 chālāti wafāti bi al-fīrūsi, li yablughā ijmālī chālāti al-wafāti 147 alfan wa 901 chālātīn/*

(3) "The Indian "NDTV" network **quoted** the ministry as saying that 279 deaths from the virus were recorded, bringing the total deaths to 147,901 cases" (*Al-Ahram, 28th December 2020*)

Sentence (3) comprises a representative speech act in the conclusion category. The presence of several discourse components can be spotted such as speech act marker in the verb نقلت "naqalat" which have the meaning of "quoted" or "reported", information regarding the total recorded deaths from the Coronavirus, and the source of fact used as a reference by the news writer, that is the Indian "NDTV" network which has quoted the Ministry saying.

In this context, the writer synthesizes the topics being discussed related to the number of deaths due to the Coronavirus based on information from a valid and reliable source. Briefly, sentence (3) has similarities with representative speech acts in the statement of fact category because they both quote information from valid and reliable sources. However, in sentence (3) the author tries to conclude the information from the topic of discussion that has been conveyed by the ministry through a news broadcast released by NDTV Network

India. Thus, sentence (3) is a synthesis of the topics raised in the news. The structure of the discourse can be mapped simply as follows:

<i>Speech Act Marker</i>	نقلت "Reported; Quoted"
<i>Fact/ Information</i>	إنه تم تسجيل ٢٧٩ حالة وفاة بالفيروس، ليبلغ إجمالي حالات الوفاة ١٤٧ ألفاً و٩٠١ حالة "279 deaths from the virus were recorded, bringing the total deaths to 147,901 cases"
<i>Source of Fact</i>	شبكة "ان دي تي في" الهندية؛ القول من الوزارة "The Indian "NDTV" network; The Ministry saying"

### Description

The purpose of description is to arouse and inspire an image of something; to capture the attention to the listeners; to refine the listeners' perception about something (Alawi, 2013). Some expressions that express this speech act include describing, explaining, and so on (Yule, 1996; Ballmer & Brennenstuhl, 1981).

(٤) وأظهر إحصاء لرويترز أن أكثر من ١٣٢,١ مليون شخص أصيبوا بفيروس كورونا المستجد على مستوى العالم، في حين وصل إجمالي عدد الوفيات الناتجة عن الفيروس إلى ٣ ملايين و٤ آلاف و٤١٣

*[Wa azhhara ichshā`u li rūitirz anna aktsara min 132.1 milyūni syakhshin ushibū bi firūsi kūrūnā al-mustajidi 'alā mustawā al-'ālamī, fī chīnīn washala ijmālī 'adadi al-wafayāti an-nātijati 'an al-firūsi ilā 3 malayīna wa 4 alāfin wa 413]*

(4) "The Reuters statistic **showed** that more than 132.1 million people were infected with the emerging coronavirus worldwide, while the total number of deaths resulting from the virus reached 3,004,413 people" (*Aljazeera, 7th April 2021*)

Sentence (4) contains a representative speech act in the description category. This can be known from the appearance of several discourse components such as speech act markers in the verb أظهر "azhhara" which have the meaning of "showed" or "explained", information regarding the total number of people infected with the Coronavirus and the total number of deaths resulting from the virus worldwide, and the source of information as a reference by the writer, that is the statistic from Reuters.

Indeed, if we pay attention to this type of speech act, it is quite similar to the previous two types of speech acts, they are the statement of fact and the conclusion. The similarity lies in the characteristic of the representative speech act that prioritizes sources of information that are considered valid and can be

trusted by the public. However, in this type of description, the information or facts presented or emphasized by the author are intended to capture the attention of the reader along with the necessary data. Thus, news writers try to represent their ideas through valid and reliable sources.

The structure of the discourse can be seen as follows:

<i>Speech Act Marker</i>	"Showed; Explained"	أظهر
<i>Fact/ Information</i>	"More than 132.1 million people were infected with the emerging coronavirus worldwide, ...."	أكثر من ١٣٢,١ مليون شخص أُصيبوا بفيروس كورونا المستجد على مستوى العالم، .....
<i>Source of Fact</i>	"The Reuters Statistic"	إحصاء لرويترز

### Representative Speech Act Expressions in Arabic News Discourse

After observing the findings related to expressions or markers of representative speech act in Arabic news discourse about Covid-19, it was found that most of them were marked and expressed by verbs and cognate object of verb. Here the explanations regarding this result.

#### Verb

One of the easiest parts of speech to observe when discussing about speech acts is the verb. This is because the position of the verb almost always occupies the position of the head of clause and it is used to describe linguistic activities such as acts, events, and states (Ballmer & Brennenstuhl, 1981; Brown & Miller, 2013). Every language (including Arabic) must have a set of verbs which describe different types of speech act. The term speech act verbs has differently been characterized as applying either to all action words used to allude to a verbal conduct or to the a lot more modest subset of action words communicating specific speaker perspectives (Verschueren, 1980; Proost, 2006). Consider the list of representative speech act verbs found in Aljazeera and Al-Ahram in **Table 1** dan **Table 2** respectively.

**Table 1. Representative Speech Act Verbs Found in Aljazeera**

	Tell	Said	Inform	State	Predict
<i>Statement of Fact</i>	أعلن - نشر - ذكر - قال - أخبر	قال - ذكر - أخبر - اعتبر	أعلن - أخبر	أعلن - قال - ذكر أشار - ورد -	توقع

	Deny رفض	Express عبّر - أعرب - كشف	Represent مثل وصف -	Recommend نصح - إقترح - قدم - تقدّم	Show/ Draw لفت
<b>Assertions</b>	Assert أكد - فرض - شدّد	Believe اعتقد - آمن - رأى	Assure أكد	Claim أعلن - قال - ادّعى	Insist شدّد
		Argue رأى - قال - ناقش - دفع	Add/Append يأتي أضاف -	Warn/Shout حدّر - نبّه	
<b>Conclusions</b>		Report قرّر - أخبر - نقل - ذكر - أبلغ - رصد - سجّل		Conclude استخلص - خلس - قرّر	
	<b>Descriptions</b>		Describe وصف - مثل	Explain أظهر - أوضح	

Table 2. Representative Speech Act Verbs Found in Al-Ahram

<b>Statement of Fact</b>	Tell أعلن - ذكر	Said قال - ذكر - تحدّث	Inform أنبأ - أعلن - كتب	State ذكر - أفاد أعلن - صريح - أشار - نصّ
	Predict توقّع	Express عبّر - أعرب - كشف	Recommend تقدّم - نصح استدعى	Show/Draw لفت - أطلق
<b>Assertions</b>	Assert أكد - شدّد	Agree اتّفق	Assure أكد	Claim أعلن - قال
	Insist شدّد	Argue ناقش	Add/Append أضاف - استكمل - يأتي - تابع	Warn/Shout حدّر - ناشد
<b>Conclusions</b>		Report نقل - ذكر - أفاد - أبلغ - رصد قرّر -		Conclude - قرّر عقد
	<b>Descriptions</b>		Explain أظهر - أوضح	

When it is observed from the findings concerned to verbs that indicate the representative speech acts from the two data sources above, it is known that the results obtained from these sources are relatively the same. Although there are also some findings of different verbs, they are not significant. This shows that Arabic news discourse from these sources has similarities regarding the structure and content of the discourse -at least in the currently observed topic about the

Covid-19 outbreak. In addition, it can also be identified that the Arabic used in these newspapers is the modern standard one (MSA) (Mahdi & Lubis, 2020; Al-Wahy, 2021; Ismail & Harun, 2021).

Concerning the variety of verbs, it can be noticed that the representative speech acts in the statement of fact type have more verb variations than the other because the nature of representative speech acts lies on the verification or argumentation based on valid and reliable sources of data or information that are generally accepted by the public (Searle, 1979; Ballmer & Brennenstuhl, 1981; Yule, 1996; Tsoumou, 2020), or in this context are newsreaders. Thus, the assertion, conclusion, and description basically express or state some facts, but the difference lies in the way of emphasis on the facts presented in the discourse.

### ***Cognate Object of Verb***

In sentence construction, a cognate object is positioned as a direct object that has similarities with the main verb, both in terms of form and meaning (Brown & Miller, 2013; Eitelmann & Mondorf, 2018). Thus, the appearance of this cognate object cannot be separated from the action represented in the verb (Quirk et al, 1985, Macfarland, 1995; Madkhali, 2017).

In Arabic grammatical thought, cognate object (or also called cognate accusative) is equivalent to the term *al-maf'ul al-muthlaq* (Ryding, 2005; Madkhali, 2017; Ali, 2018; Majeed, 2019). It functions mainly in emphasizing or intensifying a statement by using an indefinite accusative verbal noun derived from the main verb or predicate (Ryding, 2005; Abd al-Ghani, 2010; Ali, 2018). In some cases, the verb of the cognate object in Arabic is generated from different verbs but have the same meaning or sometimes it is not specifically mentioned because basically it is already known in general through the context of its use in sentences (Abd al-Ghani, 2010). Thus, it can be concluded that the cognate object indicates action as represented in the verb so that it can also describe linguistic activities such as acts, events, and states. Consider the list of representative speech act in the form of cognate object (*al-maf'ul al-muthlaq*) found in Aljazeera and Al-Ahram in **Table 3** dan **Table 4** respectively:

**Table 3. Representative Speech Act in the form cognate object found in Aljazeera**

<b><i>Statement of Fact</i></b>	Said قائلا	State مشيرا (إلى)	Show/Draw لافتا (إلى)
<b><i>Assertions</i></b>	Assert مؤكددا - مشددا (على)	Warn منها (إلى)	Add/Append مضيفا
<b><i>Conclusions</i></b>	Conclude مستدلا (على)		Report وفقا (ل) - طبقا (ل)
<b><i>Descriptions</i></b>		Explain موضحا	

**Table 4. Representative Speech Act in the form Cognate Object Found in Al-Ahram**

<i>Statement of Fact</i>	Said قائلا	State مشيرا (إلى)	Show/Draw لافتا (إلى)
<i>Assertions</i>	Assert مؤكددا - تأكيدا (على) - مشددا (على)		Add/Append مضيفا
<i>Conclusions</i>	Report وفقا (ل) - طبقا (ل)		
<i>Descriptions</i>	Explain موضحا		

If we analyze the structure of the sentence that contains this cognate object, it is known that this object can stand alone or it can also strengthen or emphasize the related representative speech act verb mentioned before. Consider the example in sentence (5) below:

(5) ويضيف في حديثه (العضو المنتدب للشركة المصرية لتجارة الأدوية) لـ"بوابة الأهرام" أن هناك مكاسب مالية طائلة في انتظار شركات الأدوية خاصة التي ستقوم بإنتاج المصل وبيعه: "ستحقق مكاسب مهولة" **موضحاً** أن حجم هذه المكاسب يقدر بالمليارات الأمر الذي وصفه بـ "مصائب قوم عند قوم فوائد"

*/ Wa yudhīfu fī chadīsihi (al-'adhwu al-muntadibu li asy-syarikati al-mishriyyati li tijārati al-adawiyiyati) li "bawwābati al-ahrāmi" anna hunāka makāsibun māliyatun thā`ilatun fī intizhāri syarikāti al-'adawiyiyati khāshshatan al-latī sataqūmu bi intāji al-mashali wa bai'ihī: "satuchaqqiqu makāsibun mahūlatun" muwadhdhachan anna chajma hadzihi al-makāsibi yuqdiru bi al-milyārāti al-amru al-ladzī washafahu bi "mashā`ibi qaumin `inda qaumin fawā`idun"*

(5) "In his interview with Al-Ahram Gate, he (*Managing Director of the Egyptian Company for Pharmaceutical Trade*) **added** that there are huge financial gains waiting for pharmaceutical companies, especially those that will produce and sell the serum: "They will achieve huge gains," **explaining** that the size of these gains is estimated at billions, which he described as "one man's loss is another man's gain.""

In sentence (5) there are two representative speech act expressions, the first is through the verb يضيف "yudhīfu" which means to add, and the second is cognate object موضحا "muwadhdhachan" from the hidden verb which means to explain. Thus, the cognate object in the sentence (5) functions in emphasizing or



intensifying the previous statement about a huge financial gain for pharmaceutical companies by providing an additional explanation that the profits can reach billions (dollars). Therefore, it can be noticed that this is in line with the function of the cognate object itself, namely emphasizing a statement by using an indefinite accusative verbal noun derived from the main verb or predicate (Abd al-Ghani, 2010; Ali, 2018).

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the analysis, it can be noted that there are four types of representative speech acts contained in Arabic news discourse about Covid-19, namely statement of fact, assertion, conclusion, and description. The most common types of representative speech acts found are in the statement of fact category which is the nature of the representative act itself. In this case, the news writers represent their attitudes and ideas through evidence that is considered valid, both from quotes of experts, authorized official institutions, or other news sources. Thus, they reflect the world view in every news discourse they present to be easily accepted by the audience (readers) and try not to give subjective opinions. Furthermore, these speech acts are expressed through various expressions or linguistic markers, including verbs and cognate objects of verbs (*al-maf'ul al-muthlaq*). It can also be concluded that in most cases the editors agree with the world view that Covid-19 is a dangerous global pandemic that has an impact on almost all sectors, including health, economy, politics, education, and so on. They also agree with the existence of a vaccine to overcome this pandemic which is believed by most of the people of the world. However, this research has several limitations, including the data sources and news topics. The scope of data collection time can also be expanded so that it is possible that new findings can also be exposed.

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