**Intertextuality in Historical News Discourse: A Comparative Study of Persian newspapers’ coverage of the World War II**

**Masoumeh Rahimi,** *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

This paper examines intertextuality in the news discourse of two Iranian state-run newspapers, *Ettelaat* and *Kayhan,* during the Second World War. *Ettelaat and Kayhan*, founded during Pahlavi's reign in 1926 and 1943 respectively, continued their publications to today and often aligned their agenda with the policies of ruling authorities. Through metaphor analysis, I gained initial insights into how the newspapers (de)legitimize specific perspectives. For instance, *Kayhan* (1943) metaphorically depicted the presence of the World War II Allies in Persia as a "medical prescription" that "completely recognises the pain" and served as the "only decisive cure," emphasising the need for unity and cooperation with them in response to external threats.

This present paper delves into intertextuality to decipher the layers of meaning embedded in news discourse and to understand how knowledge is produced, disseminated, and shaped within a broader network of interconnected discourses. ‘Intertextuality’ manifests through explicit references to historical or contemporary topics, actors, or events, allusions or evocations, and the transference of core arguments from one text to another (Reisigl & Wodak, 2016, p. 28). Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is well-suited for investigating power relations, intertextuality, and the contextual factors influencing discourse, specifically when transcending national and geographical boundaries. This paper draws upon CDA, particularly Siegfried Jäger's (2016) approach. This approach enabled us to untangle the bundle of intertwined discourse strands, revealing the role of news discourse and translation in the construction of reality and shaping public opinion in *Kayhan*’s (2015-2020) coverage of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (Rahimi & Sepp, 2023).

The analysis unravels the complex web of intertwined discourses, including intra- and inter-lingual quotations within the newspapers' articles. The results show how, through intertextuality, domestic and international issues are evaluated, criticised, and justified. The analysis also shows how newspapers foster a sense of collective identity by connecting readers to shared historical and political references, thus constructing and reinforcing national identity. In *Kayhan,* Iran’s foreign policy was viewed positively, stressing the importance of maintaining cooperative relations with Allied forces. Did *Ettelaat* takethe same consistent stance during the war and under different leaderships? The diachronic analysis compares intertextuality in the discourse of both newspapers and discusses the underlying ideological and cultural reasons for any differences observed in their discourse positions.

**References**

Jäger, S. (2016). *Kritische Diskursanalyse: Eine Einführung* [Critical Discourse Analysis: An Introduction]. Münster: UNRAST Verlag.

Rahimi, M. & Sepp, A. (2023). *A CDA Approach to the Translation of News Discourse in the Context of International Conflict: The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action*. [Doctoral dissertation]. Brussels: Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Reisigl, M., & Wodak, R. (2016). The discourse-historical approach (DHA). In R. Wodak, & M. Meyer (Ed.), *Methods of Critical Discourses Studies* (pp. 23-61). London: Sage