

# The Representation of Women in Arab Media: Evidence From Jordan's News Agency (PETRA) in 2017

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## Abstract

Arab women have recently made significant achievements in the fields of science and education in addition to contributing to political, social, and economic aspects. Despite so, they still face different obstacles and have limited opportunities to take leading positions in the Arab community. This study uses a corpus of 1329 articles (562,501 words) published by Jordan News Agency (PETRA) to examine how women are defined and constructed in 2017. Carrying out a Critical Discourse Analysis qualitative analysis and Corpus Linguistic quantitative analysis, the researcher found that although Jordan is making progress with regard to women's rights, women are still seen as a weak part in the society. The article concludes that representing women as dominated party helps to perpetuate negative stereotypes.

**Keywords:** Arab women, Critical discourse analysis, Corpus linguistics, Jordan news agency, Stereotype

## 1. Introduction

Arab women represent almost half of the population in the Arab countries (Tabutin, Schoumaker, Rogers, Mandelbaum, & Dutreuilh, 2005). In the last decade, Arab women have had different accomplishments in the fields of science and education (Islam, 2017). They have also been the focus of different political, social, economic, and scientific research. Al-Maaitah, Oweis, Gharaibeh, Olimat, and al-Maaitah (2013) stated that Arab women have occupied many leading positions, and have significantly contributed to the development of

their communities. Sidani (2005) highlighted that women in Arab society have played several roles, and continue to work hard on daily basis to build the family and take care of the house. Still, there are many obstacles and challenges that face them in the Arab world where many people still think that women's tasks do not exceed being housewives.

The issue of women's empowerment has increased in recent years, where there were different demands to give them the opportunity to have different roles in the society, and contribute to decision-making in various fields especially politics and economy. Many organizations, agencies and countries have paid attention to this area through the establishment of a series of conferences and symposia. These events have pointed to the importance of empowering women and giving them the full right to work in all fields (Kabeer, 2005). In the Arab world, women have limited opportunities to lead and contribute to the political process, with limited roles as voters; the civil service, the private and academic sector (Karam, 1998).

There are numerous reasons as to why this issue has grown in the Middle East more than any other place in the world. One of them is that there are too many young men who are given more opportunities than women. Another is that the concept of equality is very underdeveloped. Equality is still a new concept that has been taking its time growing in the Middle East and might take longer than the rest of the world since the difference in culture is massive.

Statistics indicates that women's participation in decision-making in the Arab and Muslim countries is only 5.6%, while the percentage reaches 39.7% in the European countries and 17.6% in the United States (United Nations, 2015). This shows the deteriorating situation of the Arab women. Al-Maaitah et al. (2013) mentioned that the factors that contribute to the deterioration of the situation of the Arab women are rooted in the society caused by political and social aspects.

In Jordan, there has been tremendous economic development, which has had an enormous impact on the status of women. Politically speaking, women have won the right to vote and run for election, and now assume leadership positions in different ministries (Shteivi, 2015). In the same vein, Keeling (2010) stated that though there has been significant progress of women's rights in Jordan, women remain underutilized and often sidelined due to enduring social norms and traditions that have stifled women's advancement. In Jordan, women's economic participation has been increased, and 2343 women were provided with new or better employment opportunities as a result of workforce development programs (Dababneh, 2016).

For decades, USAID has partnered with the Government of Jordan and civil society organizations to support the well-being and empowerment of women and girls. With an education system that ensures equal access to both genders, Jordan boasts a highly educated female population that has the potential to advance Jordan's economic, social, and political development (USAID, 2018). Jordan is one of the first Arab countries to integrate gender issues into its national policies, where a special focus has been devoted to the social protection of women and a special focus on women, environment and climate change has been also added to the national strategy for women in Jordan (Dababneh, 2016). Similarly,

King Abdullah II of Jordan highlighted that "the Jordanian woman is the pillar of our society and without her extensive contributions, efforts, patience and sacrifices, the Jordanian family would not have developed and prospered" (The Jordan Times, 2018).

In this study, the researcher uses a 502,169-word corpus of news articles published by Jordan's News Agency (PETRA) to answer the following research question:

- In what ways are woman and women defined and constructed in PETRA in 2017?

## 2. Methodology

The corpus of this study is built from scratch using a news database (Factiva). Using databases to retrieve news data is common in corpus linguistic (critical) discourse analysis studies (Haider, 2019). For the articles to be included in the corpus of this study, they should be published by Jordan's News Agency (PETRA), occur in 2017, and include one of the query terms:

نساء /النساء /المرأة /امرأة

Translated as

*Woman/ the woman /women/ the women/*

The search resulted in 1329 articles, and 562,501 words as Table 1 shows.

Table 1. The number of the collected articles

Month	Number of Articles
1	141
2	149
3	256
4	194
5	177
6	39
7	63
8	48
9	40
10	79
11	73
12	70
<b>Results</b>	<b>1329</b>

Petra is the News Agency of Jordan. The Agency was established in 1969, and linked to the Ministry of Information. The Agency has correspondents in different countries around the world. The Agency provides news services in Arabic and English on its main outlet and its archive is used by most Jordanian newspapers including Al-Rai, Al-Dustour, Al-Ghad, and Jordan Times (Haider & Olimy, 2018).

### 3. Analysis

As it was mentioned above, the dataset is examined twice by the same researcher; from critical discourse analysis and corpus linguistic perspectives to check whether the results are convergent, dissonant, or complementary.

#### 3.1 Qualitative Analysis

In the CDA qualitative analysis, the researcher used “find” function in Microsoft Word, examined all sentences that include the words *النساء*women and *المرأة*woman, and then put similar sentences (with close themes) together in the same thematic categories. These categories include:

***Sons of Jordanian’s Women and Nationality Granting Issues.*** Jordanian women don’t have the right to pass citizenship to their children. Children of Jordanian women are treated like foreigners. Emanuel (2012, p. 3) stated that “Women in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan are unable to pass Jordanian nationality to their children”. Authorities also restrict women’s right to own property, travel from and return to Jordan, enroll in higher education and access government healthcare and other services. Going through the incidents of *المرأة*women in Petra, the researcher found that this theme was frequently discussed.

Example 1:

واشارت خضر الى بعض مظاهر القصور في قوانين الجنسية والعمل والتقاعد المدني، لافتة الى ان التمييز ضد المرأة في التشريعات هو في كثير من الاحيان اشد وقعا واثرا من العنف الجسدي او اللفظي

Translation: Khader pointed to some **shortcomings in the nationality laws**, labour, and civil retirement, highlighting that discrimination against women in legislation is often severer than physical or verbal violence

Based on example above, seems that making some amendments to the nationality law is a demand of local and international committees; where the law is said to have shortcomings affecting the women and their families psychologically and physically.

***Violence against Women.*** Violence against women is one of the crucial social issues that were discussed before. Violence in this sense refers to the action that is taken against women and girls merely because they are females. Violence against women is understood as “a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life” (World Health Organization, 1997, p. 2)

This reflects the unequal power relations between men and women. Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations mentioned that “violence against women and girls is a problem of pandemic proportions. At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime with the abuser usually someone known to her”.

Not to mention the verbal attacks that women receive in any attempt of trying to get equal rights. Violence against women doesn't affect only the women negatively but also their families and community at large. In the future, it is recommended to stop gender based violence and change the national and international perspectives toward women. An example of this theme is the sentence below.

### Example 2

أشار الأمين العام الى الانتهاكات التي تتعرض لها النساء في أنحاء العالم، من التطرف الذي يبني أيديولوجياته على إخضاع النساء والفتيات وحرمانهن من حقوقهن، إلى العنف الجنسي والإجبار على الزواج والاتجار بالبشر

e.g. 2 Translation: The Secretary-General referred to **violations** against women throughout the world. This varies from extremism which is built on the subjection of women and girls to **sexual violence, forced marriage, and human trafficking**

**Women in Politics.** Women in the Arab world are still inadequately represented in political life and their participation is far less than men. This generates an atmosphere of inferiority of women in the society. This is still the general tendency although the contributions of women in politics are growing up. (Carmichael, Dilli, & Rijpma, 2016, p. 245) pointed out that “large differences exist between countries, e.g. Sri Lanka has quite low female participation rates in parliament compared with Denmark, Sweden and Norway, where female representation rates are among the highest”. The participation of women in the national and international leadership roles has become an essential focus on global development policy. Accordingly, over the last two decades, there is an obvious rise in the rate of women's representation in national parliament globally. The sentence below is an example of this theme.

### Example 3

أصدرت هيئة منظمة الأمم المتحدة المعنية بالمساواة بين الجنسين وتمكين المرأة والاتحاد البرلماني الدولي خارطة المشاركة السياسية للنساء في العالم لعام 2017، وتشمل معظم الدول وتعكس الوضع القائم عالمياً حتى مطلع العام الجاري. وتركز الخارطة على مشاركة النساء في رئاسة الدول والحكومات وتولي المناصب الوزارية وعضوية البرلمانات.

e.g. 3 Translation: The United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) issued the 2017 World Women's **political participation map**. It covers most countries and reflects the global situation until early this year. The map focuses on **women's participation in the leading countries and Government**, and assuming **ministerial positions** and the **membership of parliaments**.

**Equality between Women and Men.** Equality in this context here means dealing with the different attitudes, and needs of men and women equally. It also doesn't mean they have to become the same as they may be different in some aspects. However, people should have equal rights and opportunities regardless of their gender. ABC of Women Worker's Rights and Gender Equality, ILO (2000) stated that “Gender equality means fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different but which is considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities”.

Equality is still a work in progress. Though it has come extremely far in the past 10 years with influential people rooting for it, it still has not been fully accomplished. HeForShe is one of the biggest movements that has founded to support equality and help in making it happen. Over 2,000,000 people joined the global commitment in a matter of two years.

Equality between women and men should be guaranteed in all areas, including health, work and salaries. Schiek (2014, p. 30) stressed out that “the principle of equality shall not prevent the maintenance or adoption of measures providing for specific advantages in favor of the underrepresented sex”. Example 4 below portrays this theme.

#### Example 4

الحكومة أخذت على عاتقها تحقيق المساواة بين الجنسين وتمكين النساء والفتيات من خلال توطيق اهداف وغايات التنمية المستدامة وادماجها بالبرامج التنموية التنفيذية اخذة بعين الاعتبار التحديات والمعوقات التي تحد من حصول الفتاة والمرأة الاردنية على دورها الحقيقي في التنمية والتقدم الى الامام.

e.g. 4 Translation: The Government has undertaken to achieve **gender equality** and the empowerment of women and girls by settling the goals and objectives of sustainable development and integrating them into operational development programs, taking into account the challenges and obstacles that limit the access of Jordanian girls and women to their real role in development and progress.

**Muslim Women in the World.** Muslim women may have bad experiences especially those who live in non-Muslim societies as they may have distorted stereotypes. This unjustified understanding of Muslim women may affect their social existence in the world. It also minimizes their chances of achieving a lot of things.

Moreover, Muslim women have encountered gender based inequalities in the Arab societies. Offenauer and Buchalter (2005, p. 5) argue that “until the latter decades of the twentieth century, the question of women’s status and roles in Muslim cultures and societies was profoundly neglected. Western-inspired studies of the Muslim world mentioned women in passing, but in stereotyped and sensationalistic ways, while the bulk of locally produced literature on women in Islam consisted of discussions of the “right” place of women in society, including, at best, didactic manuals on how to live a pious but modern life”. Below is an example of this theme.

#### Example 5

تعارض القانون لأنه يهمل مجموعة معينة من النساء ويشوه سمعتهم، مبينة أن هذا القانون يجعل النساء المسلمات أكثر ضعفا ويؤدي إلى إنعدام الأمن في الأماكن العامة ويعرقلهن من التنقل في المجتمع.

e.g. 5 Translation: She opposes the law because it marginalizes a certain group of women and distorts their reputations, stating that this law makes **Muslim women more vulnerable** and leads to insecurity in Public places and hinders them from moving into society

#### Examples 6

وتعرض النساء المسلمات المحجبات لموجة متنامية من الانتهاكات الشفهية وحتى الجسدية في عدد من الدول

e.g. 6 Translation: the exposure of **Muslim women with Hijab** to a growing wave of **verbal and even physical violations** in a number of countries

*Women in Wars.* Wars are part of the Arab world's daily life, and women may be the most affected victims of wars and conflict zones. Clinton (1998) asserted that "women have always been the primary victims of war". Moreover, one of the main effects of wars on women is being left by herself with all the responsibilities of raising their children. Women are left in charge of a lot of work that in time of peace is considered "a man's job".

Clinton (1998) mentioned that "too often, the women we see shopping at the markets, working at their jobs, caring for their children by day, go home at night and live in fear. Not fear of an invading army or a natural disaster or even a stranger in a dark alley, but fear of the very people- family members- who they are supposed to depend upon for help and comfort". Therefore, it's important for women to be a part of the peace negotiation. Examples 7 and 8 below show this theme.

Example 7

وأشار غوتيريس بمناسبة العام الجديد، في رسالته التي بثها بلغات عديدة، مطبوعة ومتلفزة، الى الموت والدمار الذي طال النساء والأطفال والى العوز والخوف قائلا "لا يسلم من العنف مستشفى ولا قافلة تحمل معونة".

e.g. 7 Translation: Speaking on the occasion of the New Year, Guterres, in his message, printed and televised in many languages, referred to the **death and destruction of women and children**, and to destitution and fear, saying, "Neither a hospital nor a caravan carrying aid is spared from violence."

In example 8

تجربة المرأة الفلسطينية ومعاناتها في الوصول إلى الموارد في ظل الاحتلال الإسرائيلي، ومعاناة النساء في مناطق الحروب والنزاعات باعتبار ان النساء من أوائل الضحايا.

e.g. 8 Translation: the experience and **suffering of Palestinian women** in accessing resources **under Israeli occupation**, and the suffering of women in areas of war and conflict, as **women are among the first victims**.

*Women and Terrorism.* In recent years, the world has seen a dramatic increase in terrorist activities. The concept of "terrorism" is usually connected with men more than women due to the belief that they are inherently less aggressive than men. The role of women in terrorism goes into two directions, being within the terrorist group, or preventing and countering this violent extremism. Over the last decade, it has been found that the number of women participating in terrorism is increasing regionally. Bloom (2011, p. 6) stated that "between 1985 and 2010, female suicide bombers committed over 257 attacks on behalf of several terrorist networks, which represents approximately a quarter of the total number of attacks committed". Examples 9 and 10 below reflect this theme.

Example 9

القبض على 20 مطلوباً في قضايا إرهابية من بينهم 4 نساء ساهمن في إيواء مطلوبين وهاربين والتستر عليهم.

e.g. 9 Translation: the arrest of 20 wanted terrorists, **including four women who had participated in and covered up wanted and fugitives.**

In example 10

إنزال اليمن كشف عن مقاتلات كثر بصفوف القاعدة وأن جنود القوات الخاصة الأميركية الذين نفذوا عملية إنزال نادرة في اليمن الأحد ضد تنظيم القاعدة فوجئوا بنساء كثيرات يقاتلن في صفوف التنظيم الإرهابي.

e.g. 10 Translation: Yemen's Landing has uncovered many female fighters in al-Qaeda, and US Special Forces soldiers who carried out a rare landing in Yemen on Sunday against al-Qaeda were surprised by **several women fighting with the terrorist group.**

**Women's Health.** In general, women are expected to live longer than men. However, they are sicklier than men throughout the life cycle. In some countries, women are not provided with health care. Kowsalya and Manoharan (2017, p. 109) stated that "Women's health concern is influenced by interrelated biological, social and cultural factors". Health affects the lives of women and their ability to function widely in society and community. Women Health Equality Consortium (2011) reported that "Women face many barriers to accessing health and social care, which can delay treatment and make health worse".

In some countries, they do not even tend carefully for conceiving women, even at the time of giving birth, which is an extremely sensitive period that needs a lot of medical attention and observation. Examples 11 and 12 below clarifies this theme.

Example 11

ويقيس المؤشر الفجوة بين الرجال والنساء في 144 دولة في العالم عبر أربعة محاور رئيسية: **الصحة** والتعليم والمشاركة والفرص الاقتصادية والتمكين السياسي، حيث حل الأردن في المرتبة 135 بين الدول المشاركة

e.g. 11 Translation: The index measures the gap between men and women in 144 countries in the world across four main axes: **health**, education, participation, economic participation and opportunities and political empowerment, with Jordan ranking 135 among the participating countries

Example 12

وقع مشروع الرعاية الصحية المتكاملة الممول من الوكالة الأميركية للتنمية الدولية مذكرات تفاهم مع ثلاث منظمات غير حكومية؛ لتعزيز **حصول النساء والأطفال على الخدمات الصحية.**

e.g. 12 Translation: The Integrated Health Care project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has signed memorandums of understanding with three NGOs to **enhance women's and children's access to health services.**

**Women in Prison.** In the Arab world, it is not common to have women in prison. However, due to the difficult life, there was an increase in the number of women in prison. Kaeble, Glaze, Tsoutis, and Minton (2014, p. 6) reported that "between 2000 and 2010, the number of males in prison grew by 1.4% per annum, while the number of females grew by 1.9% per annum". This dramatic increase did not happen by accident; however, many social factors such as crime, politics, and social change contributed to it. (Examples 13 and 14)



## Example 13

ظهور ما اصطلح على تسميته "النساء الغارمات"، أي اللواتي حكمن بالسجن بعد عجزهن عن سداد قروض حصلن عليها

e.g. 13 Translation: The appearance of what is termed "**the women under the burden of debt**", i.e. those who were sentenced to prison after they were unable to repay the loans they received

## In example 14

موضوع التوقيف الإداري للفتيات والنساء بداعي الحماية وعدم وجود قانون يجرم التمييز وغياب آليات حماية للنساء المعنفات كانت أبرز الموضوعات والقضايا التي تناولها التقرير.

e.g. 14 Translation: The issue of **administrative detention of girls and women** on the grounds of protection, the absence of a law criminalizing discrimination and the absence of protection mechanisms for battered women were the main topics and issues addressed in the report.

**Inheritance of Women.** Women's inheritance rights are different between societies and influenced by religion, ethnic, cultural beliefs and legal factors. Some inheritance laws give female less property than male heirs. Steinzor (2003, p. 3) mentioned that "ongoing adherence to male-dominated traditions of property ownership has generally meant that women cannot take advantage of the wide range of benefits associated with ownership and control of property". Additionally, there are several factors that affect women's interaction with inheritance rights; first, stereotypes of special characteristics should be attached to a particular gender imitate the capability of women to gain property rights and enhance status. Second, some restrictions of women's interaction with situations which are composed of men create an illusion from women toward legal actions. Third, level of education, assumptions and the role that women play in society affect the way that an issue is implanted. Grown, Gupta, Kes, and millénaire (2005) pointed out that development-related problems encountered across the globe have been increasingly related to women's lack of property and inheritance rights, particularly in regard to land and property ownership, areas such as low levels of education, hunger, and poor health.

## In example 15,

لل سيدات في معان اليوم الثلاثاء بالتعاون مع السفارة الكندية ورشة قانونية حول حقوق المرأة المالية وحققها في الميراث بهدف رفع الوعي لدى الفئات النسائية وتعزيز حقوقهن المالية.

e.g. 2 Translation: women in Maan, in cooperation with the Canadian Embassy, have a legal workshop on women's financial rights and her right to inherit in order to raise awareness among women's groups and promote their financial rights.

### 3.2 Quantitative Corpus Linguistic Analysis

To examine how *المرأة/ النساء woman/ women* were referred to in Petra in 2017, the researcher carried out a collocation analysis to the two forms (singular and plural), and categorized the most frequent collocates into thematic groups as Table 2 shows.

Table 2. Thematic categories of the collocates of *المرأة/ النساء* in Petra in 2016

Category	المراة	النساء
Other segments of society	الطفل\ الرجل\ الشباب	الاطفال\ الرجال\ الشباب\ والفتيات\ ذوي الاعاقة\ السن
	child / man / youth	children \ men \ youth \ young women \ people with disabilities \ elderly
Forms of Discrimination	ضدا العنف\ التمييز\ حماية\ الاجتماعي\ قضايا	ضدا حماية\ العنف\ الجرائم\ قضايا
	against \ violence \ discrimination \ protection \ social \ issues	against \ protection \ violence \ crimes
Work & Economy	الاقتصادي\ الاقتصادية\ اقتصاديا\ العمل\ العاملة\ سوق\ عمل	الاقتصادي\ الاقتصادية\ مشروع\ عمل\ العمل\ الاقتصادية\ اعمال\ التجارية
	economic \ economic \ labor \ market \ business	economic \ economic \ project \ work \ labor \ workers
Committees	لجنة\ لجان\ لشؤون\ صندوق\ اتحاد\ النيابية\ مجلس\ الريفية\ الاعيان	جمعية\ معهد\ البلدية\ المجالس\ مجلس
	committee \ committees \ affairs \ fund \ union \ parliamentary \ council\ rural \ senate	association \ institute \ municipality \ councils \ council
Number	نسبة	نسبة\ عددا\ بالمئة\ النسبة
	percentage	percentage \ number \ percent \ percentage
Support	دورا\ تمكين\ مشاركة\ حقوق\ تعزيز\ دعم\ اهمية\ تنمية\ جهود\ المجالات\ بالتعاون\ الحياة\ السياسية	تضامن\ تمكين\ مشاركة\ دورا\ المساواة\ حقوق\ solidarity / empowerment / participation / role / equality / rights
	role \ enabling \ participation \ rights\ promotion \ support \ importance \ development \ efforts \ areas \ cooperation \ life \ political	
Legal Issues	قانون\ التشريعات	
	law \ legislation	
International Days	اليوم\ يوم\ العالمي\ بمناسبة	
	Today \ day \ global \ occasion	

As table 2 shows, there is an overlap in most of the categories except for the last two; namely; Legal Issues, and International Days. Despite the similarities, it can be observed that collocates themselves are different, and more concentration is sometimes put on one category rather than another.

**Other Segments in the Society.** This category includes words like *children, men, youth, young women, people with disabilities*, and *elderly*. If we exclude *men*, the other mentioned categories are perceived as weak and dominated in society. The singular form “*المرأة woman*” is mentioned

with “*الطفل child*” 69 times, “*الرجل man*” 83 times, and “*youth*” 77 times. It seems that there is a strong association between *الطفل child* and *المرأة woman* being a mother and caregiver. Both *children* and *women* should be supported, their rights should be defended, their issues and problems should be solved, and violence against them should be fought and ended. With regard to *woman* and *youth*, it is mentioned that they should be empowered and given much attention. Regarding *woman* and *man*, the cluster analysis showed that both genders should be treated equally and that there is no difference between them (see Table 3).

Table 3. A cluster analysis for women *المرأة* with the collocates of the thematic category “other segments in society”

Translation	Cluster
Rights of woman and child	حقوق المرأة والطفل
Issues and problems of woman and child	قضايا ومشاكل المرأة والطفل
Health of woman and child	صحة المرأة والطفل
The empowerment of woman and youth	تمكين المرأة والشباب
Continuous care of youth and woman	الاهتمام المتواصل بقطاع الشباب والمرأة
Equality between woman and man	المساواة بين المرأة والرجل

These same themes are applicable to the plural form of the word *women*; for example, women are put in the same category with *children, elderly, youth, people with special needs, patients, juvenile, vulnerable groups, and orphans*. For example, *girls and women* are sexually violated, and *women, children, and people with disabilities* should be saved (see Table 4). Regarding *men and women*, in one of the headlines, it was mentioned “Women Excel Men”. This example might be read as positive as it praises women. However, reading it deeply, it might be argued that men are presupposed to excel women in normal situations, and it seems odd for women to excel men. This may explain why the article had the above mentioned headline, bearing in mind that the headline is supposed to be attractive to draw the attention of the readers and urge them to read the content of the article.

Table 4. A cluster analysis for “Women” *النساء* with the collocates of the thematic category “other segments in society”

Translation	Cluster
Women, children and people with special needs	من النساء والأطفال وذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة

Children, women and the elderly	الأطفال والنساء والشيوخ
The elderly, children, juveniles and women	وكبار السن والاطفال والاحداث والنساء
Rights of vulnerable groups such as women, youth and people with disabilities	حقوق الفئات المستضعفة كالنساء والشباب وذوي الإعاقة
Sexual violence and abuse against girls and women	العنف الجنسي والاعتداء الذي يُمارس ضد الفتيات والنساء
To arm girls and women with knowledge	لتسليح الفتيات والنساء بالمعرفة
Equality between men and women	المساواة بين الرجال والنساء
Canada recognizes the courage, service and sacrifice of Canadian women and men	كندا تعترف بشجاعة وخدمة وتضحية النساء والرجال الكنديين
Both men and women bring innovation	كلا من الرجال والنساء يجلبون الابتكار

**Forms of Discrimination.** Some words which relate to the violence against women such as *violence*, and *crimes* are included here. The cluster analysis of the word *against* ضد shows that there are crimes that are exclusively related to women (Table 5). There are different forms and practices of discrimination and violence against them. These include financial discrimination, getting similar political and social rights as men, and having equal opportunities to get jobs; for example, it is mentioned that the Civil Service Bureau, that enables the employee, the applicant, the citizen, the administrator at any position, processes female applications differently from males'. Such practices should be combated and eliminated.

Table 5. Cluster analysis for ضد against as a collocate of women/ woman

Translation	Cluster
To eliminate crimes against women	للقضاء على الجرائم ضد النساء
Against mothers and women especially in the service system	ضد الامهات والنساء خصوصا في نظام الخدمة
The growing number of murders against women and violent crimes	تنامي جرائم القتل ضد النساء وجرائم العنف
combating all forms of violence against women and girls	ومكافحة جميع أشكال العنف ضد النساء والفتيات
Fighting financial discrimination against women and customs	محاربة أوجه التمييز المالي ضد النساء والعادات
Discrimination against women	التمييز ضد المرأة
Forms of discrimination against women and women's political and social rights	أشكال التمييز ضد المرأة وحقوق المرأة السياسية والاجتماعية

**Work and Economy.** This category includes words such as *economic, project, business, and female workers*. Carrying out a cluster analysis for the words in this categories, the researcher observed that the presence of clusters like *working woman* and *working women* indicates that women are supposed to be home (Table 6). There is no evidence in the investigated corpus of expressions like *working men*. The opportunities of women in Jordan to have jobs have increased significantly in recent years. Still, there are more demands to increase women's economic participation, and eliminate the reasons that force them to withdraw from the labour market. It is also recommended that women should assume leadership positions and have flexible working system.

Table 6. Cluster analysis for the collocate of “work and economy”

Translation	Cluster
Working women	النساء العاملات
working woman	المرأة العاملة
Economic and social empowerment of women	التمكين الاقتصادي والاجتماعي للمرأة
Women's participation in the labor market	مشاركة المرأة في سوق العمل
Reasons for women's withdrawal from the labor market	الأسباب التي تؤدي إلى انسحاب المرأة من سوق العمل
Empowering women in leadership positions	مشروع تمكين النساء في المواقع القيادية
The flexible working system increases women's economic participation	نظام العمل المرن يزيد مشاركة النساء الاقتصادية
Employment opportunities for young people and women	فرص العمل خاصة للشباب والنساء

**Committees.** This category consists of collocates which relate to committees that support women or the ones that women are part of. Women in Jordan are members in municipal councils, parliament, and Senate House. Their roles even exceeded being members of these committees to running for presidency positions. In Jordan, it is mentioned that there are different associations and societies that support women, and various funds that finance their projects (Table 7).

Table 7. Cluster analysis for the collocates of “committees”

Translation	Cluster
Women in municipal councils	النساء في المجالس البلدية
Percentage of women candidates for the presidency	نسبة النساء من المرشحات لموقع رئاسة
Jordanian Women Solidarity Institute	جمعية معهد تضامن النساء الأردني
Pioneering Women Charitable Society	جمعية النساء الرائدات الخيرية
Women and Family Affairs Parliamentary Committee	لجنة المرأة وشؤون الأسرة النيابية
Women Committee in Senates Council	لجنة المرأة في الاعيان
Jordanian National Commission for Women	اللجنة الوطنية الأردنية لشؤون المرأة
Women's Microfinance Fund	صندوق المرأة للتمويل الأصغر
Arab Women Projects Fund	صندوق مشاريع المرأة العربية

**Number.** Numbers are important in news reporting as they add to the credibility of the conveyed information. Carrying out a cluster analysis for the collocates in this category, it can be observed that the percentage of women’s participation in most of the activities has increased. On other hand, there are demands to increase the percentage of women in the different life aspects; social, political, and economic.

Table 8. Cluster analysis for نسبة rate

Translation	Cluster
Women's participation in the Secretariat has increased	فزادت نسبة مشاركة المرأة في كادر الأمانة العامة
The low rate of women's economic participation is the biggest concern	وتدني نسبة المشاركة الاقتصادية للمرأة يشكلان الهاجس الأكبر
To increase the participation of women	لرفع نسبة مشاركة المرأة
Percentage of academic women in scientific fields	نسبة المرأة الأكاديمية في المجالات العلمية
Percentage of women's participation in the labor market	نسبة مشاركة المرأة في سوق العمل
Effective participation of women in public life	نسبة المشاركة الفاعلة للمرأة في الحياة العامة
Percentage of women's participation in policy-making and industry	نسبة مشاركة المرأة في رسم السياسات وصناعة
To allocate one-third of this ratio to women	ان يخصص ثلث هذه النسبة للنساء

**Support.** This category includes the highest number of collocates, and includes words that relate to the importance of the empowerment of women in the society (Table 9). For example, it is highlighted that women should be empowered economically and politically. They should assume political leading positions. Their participation in the election as candidates and voters should be increased, and their awareness about different societal issues should be raised. What draw the researcher’s attention here is the presence of some clusters which call for more support for women living in villages and rural areas as they may face more difficulties and challenges.

Table 9. A cluster analysis for the collocates of “support”

Translation	Cluster
Empowering women in leadership positions	مشروع تمكين النساء في المواقع القيادية
Holding 16 training courses to empower battered women	عقد 16 دورة تدريبية لتمكين النساء المعنفات
Training workshop on the participation of women in elections	ورشة تدريبية حول مشاركة النساء بالانتخابات
The importance of women's participation in political life	اهمية مشاركة النساء في الحياة السياسية
Development and rehabilitation of rural women	تنمية وتأهيل المرأة الريفية
The law of decentralization and the promotion of women's participation	قانون اللامركزية وتشجيع مشاركة المرأة
Women's participation in political life	مشاركة المرأة في الحياة السياسية

**Legal Issues.** This category includes words that are related to laws and legislations in Jordan, and how they can be modified to support women’s rights. For example, the Social Security Law has been modified to give more benefits to women. Jordanian Labour Law is said to be fair with women, but still some amendments to Pension Law should be made. Another important issue is related to Jordanian mother, and how they should grant their nationalities to their kids. Election Law and some other acts related to political life are praised for giving women some rights that have never existed before (Table 10).

Table 10. A cluster analysis for the collocates of “legal issues”

Translation	Cluster
On the special benefits of women in the Social Security Act	عن المزايا الخاصة بالمرأة في قانون الضمان الاجتماعي
Jordanian women should be given the right to grant their nationality	المرأة الاردنية في منح جنسيتها
The new electoral law guaranteed Jordanian women their right	قانون الانتخاب الجديد كفل للمرأة الأردنية حقها
The new Municipalities Law enhanced women's participation opportunities	قانون البلديات الجديد عزز فرص المرأة بالمشاركة
Promoting the rights of women, including the amendment of the pension law	تعزز حقوق المرأة ومنها تعديل قانون التقاعد
Amending legislation that discriminates against women	تعديل التشريعات التي تميز ضد المرأة

**International Days.** The last category is related to International Women's Days that are celebrated in many countries around the world. Words like *international* and *day* collocated with *woman* as the cluster International Women's Day was frequent in the corpus. Covering news related to this day and official efforts to promote the role of women on such occasions also imply that the event is important (Table 11).

Table 11. A cluster analysis for “day”

Translation	Cluster
Official efforts to promote the role of women on the occasion of World Day	جهود رسمية لتعزيز دور المرأة بمناسبة اليوم العالمي
World Day against Violence against Women	اليوم العالمي لمناهضة العنف ضد المرأة
International Women and Girls' Day in Science	اليوم العالمي للمرأة والفتيات في العلوم

#### 4. Discussion

As it is mentioned above, one of this study’s aims is to see whether different methods can produce convergent, dissonant, or complementary results. The researcher of this study examined the same datasets of 1329 news articles qualitatively and quantitatively to address the research question: ‘In what ways are woman and women defined and constructed in PETRA in 2017?’

Following a CDA approach, the researcher used “Find” function in Microsoft Word, and looked for the paragraphs and sentences which include the words *woman and women* and *المرأة والنساء*. The researcher went through all the examples one by one, and put similar examples in the similar thematic categories as follows: sons of Jordanian’s women and nationality granting issues, violence against women, equality between women and men, Muslim women in the world, women in wars, the role of women in terrorism fighting, women’s health, women in prison, inheritance of women, women in politics. The researcher then used WS7, and carried out a collocation analysis for the two investigated terms; categorized similar collocates together in the same thematic category before carrying out a cluster analysis for some of these collocates. The thematic categories include *other related segments of society, forms of discrimination, work & economy, committees, number, support, legal issues, and international days*.

Although the researcher approached the corpus without forming hypotheses in advance or making link findings to existing theories, the findings were either convergent (shared) or complementary (different but contributing towards a wider picture). This shows that the triangularly approach of both methodologies has clear advantages.

The analysis above showed that women are still underrepresented in many situations, and stereotyped as the weakest party in the society. Stereotypes spotlight differences between groups, especially when the groups are similar (Bordalo, Coffman, Gennaioli, & Shleifer, 2016). For example, women earn 30% of PhDs in the sciences yet hold only 13% of full professor positions (National Science Foundation, 2008). The same is true for African Americans, who represent 11% of the workforce but only 6.3% of managers (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2007). Roberson and Kulik (2007, p. 21) stated that “stereotype threat has been found to occur when the following conditions are met: (a) the task an individual is performing is relevant to the stereotype about an individual’s group, (b) the task is challenging, (c) the individual is performing in a domain with which he or she identifies, and



(d) the context in which the task is being performed is likely to reinforce the stereotype”. Women at workplace environment mostly experience the threat of stereotype.

Some claim that women are weak at quantitative tasks; African Americans are weak at cognitive ability tasks (see Chung-Herrera & Lankau, 2005; Tomkiewicz, Brenner, & Adeyemi-Bello, 1998)

Besides being victims of inequality, women also suffer from the lack of support of and understanding in their working environments. Some of the women are single mothers who are forced to settle with the payment they receive, knowing that some of them are physically, mentally, and generally perfectly capable of handling a job that society labels “A man’s job”.

## **5. Conclusions and Recommendations**

Many scholars have conducted several studies about the representation of women from different points of view - politically, economically, socially, and linguistically. However, most of these studies used a relatively small amount of data, and paid little or no attention to Arabic news agency. Therefore, one of the research gaps that this study fills is working on a large amount of data to examine the discursive strategies that Arabic media used to cover news about women. This study contributes to the growing body of studies which combine CDA with the methodological framework of CL. Unlike most of the previous studies that used two approaches cyclically, what distinguishes this study is that the two methods are used separately. The same dataset is studied by the same researcher twice; qualitatively following a CDA approach, and quantitatively following a CL approach to see whether the results are similar or different.

This study used a particular type of data (news agency texts), in one language (Arabic and English), within a defined timeframe (2017), geographical context (Jordan), and theoretical and methodological framework (CDA and CL) to answer particular research questions. Therefore, there are bound to be limitations. This study used different 2 corpus linguistic techniques; namely collocation and clusters, to answer the research questions. Future research may use other techniques, mainly frequency and keyword. Keyword analysis can be achieved by comparing the articles of Petra with the articles of other news agencies or newspapers. The corpus of this study is well-compiled, and will be available for the public use. Future researcher can use it to answer different research questions. As this study only looked at one Arabic news agency, it is recommended for future research to increase the number of media outlets. This may be accompanied by selecting some countries other than the ones investigated in this study. For example, looking at some other news agencies published in other languages rather than Arabic as this can provide a broader view about the investigated phenomenon and how language can influence how the investigated issue is represented. Since this study only looked at news agency texts, future studies may examine other media outlets such as radio or TV news channels.

The world now a day has a key to access people’s minds in countless ways. A single eye-opening article may plant an idea in minds that could change the next generation

drastically. This power must be used to create a bridge that lead to solving problems as worrisome as this one.

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