

A Pragma-Semiotic Analysis of the Iranian Protests after Mahsa Amini's Crisis in Selected American Newspapers

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Abstract:

The present paper is dedicated to the analysis of the events in Iran after Mahsa Amini's crisis in selected American newspapers from a pragma-semiotic point of view. The language of the American newspapers includes different pragmatic and semiotic aspects via which the editors address the events in Iran and discuss their perspective on these events. The study, however, intends to uncover the pragmatic and semiotic aspects that influence the interpretation of the selected newspapers reports. The study is qualitative in nature where the analysis of the selected data is based on Searle's (1969) theory of speech acts, Grice's (1975) theory of implicatures and Barthes' (1968) theory of semiotics. One report has been selected from the Washington post as a sample of the current study. After analysing the selected report, it has been found that it holds a representative form of speech acts via which the editors assert, clarify, assure and describe their points of view regarding the events in Iran. The report, in the same vein, encompass a conversational implicature where the editors conversationally imply that the Iranian regime deliberately attack the Iranian protests and kill them. This means that the editors accuse the Iranian regime of depriving the Iranian people from their rights of asking for their freedom freely. The report, moreover, has some semiotic aspects especially the denotative and connotative levels of significations.

Keywords: (Pragma-Semiotic Analysis, Mahsa Amini's Crisis).

تحليل تداولي- سيميائي للاحتجاجات الإيرانية بعد أزمة مهسا أميني في صحف أمريكية مختارة

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الملخص:

تتناول هذه الدراسة تحليل الأحداث التي شهدتها إيران بعد أزمة مهسا أميني في صحف أمريكية مختارة من وجهة نظر تداولية-سيميائية. وتتضمن لغة الصحف الأمريكية جوانب تداولية وسيميائية مختلفة يتناول من خلالها المحررون الأحداث في إيران ويناقشون وجهة نظرهم بشأن هذه الأحداث. ومع ذلك، تهدف الدراسة إلى الكشف عن الجوانب التداولية والسيميائية التي تؤثر على تفسير التقارير الصحفية المختارة. الدراسة نوعية بطبيعتها حيث يعتمد تحليل البيانات المختارة على نظرية سيرل (١٩٦٩) في أفعال الكلام ونظرية غرايس (١٩٧٥) في الدلالات ونظرية بارتس (١٩٦٨) في السيميائية. وقد تم اختيار تقرير واحد من صحيفة واشنطن بوست كعينة للدراسة الحالية. وبعد تحليل التقرير المختار، وجد أنه يحمل شكلاً تمثيلاً لأفعال الكلام التي يؤكد من خلالها المحررون ويوضحون ويصفون وجهات نظرهم فيما يتعلق بالأحداث في إيران. وعلى نفس المنوال، يتضمن التقرير استدلالاً حوارياً حيث يلمح المحررون ضمناً إلى أن النظام الإيراني يهاجم الاحتجاجات الإيرانية عمداً ويقتل المحتجين. وهذا يعني أن المحررين يتهمون النظام الإيراني بحرمان الشعب الإيراني من حقه في المطالبة بحريته. علاوة على ذلك، يحتوي التقرير على بعض الجوانب السيميائية وخاصة المستويات الدلالية والإيحائية للدلالات. الكلمات المفتاحية: (تحليل تداولي- سيميائي، أزمة مهسا أميني).

1. Introduction

Iranians express a range of frustrations over issues such as the modesty laws mandatory of the country, the harsh restrictions which are exercised on people, their political choices and speech and the discriminatory practices of the government against ethnic minorities. International Health Regulation says that at least 1,200 people are arrested, including 29 journalists, 20 activists and 19 teachers, according to government arrest reports.

Newspapers and TV. Channels address the Iranian protests and have talked about the Iranian government practices against the protestors.

These types of media use different pragmatic and semiotic aspects to describe these protests. The use of these pragmatic and semiotic aspects makes the language of these newspapers and channels somehow ambiguous and holds different interpretations. The true interpretation of such pragmatic and semiotic aspects is a challenging task for most common readers and those who lack knowledge of such aspects.

These are recent events, and they have not been tackled by any earlier studies. Thus, the language of newspapers about these events has not been dealt with before. That is to say, the pragmatic and semiotic aspects found in the language of newspapers have not been uncovered.

1.2. Research Objectives

The current study aims at:

1. Showing the pragmatic aspects used by the selected newspaper in its reports about the events in Iran after Mahsa Amini's Crisis.
2. Finding out the semiotic aspects adopted by the selected newspaper report on these events.

1.3. Research Questions

The present study intends to answer the following questions:

1. What are the pragmatic aspects used by the selected A newspaper report to address the events in Iran after Mahsa Amini's Crisis?

2. What are the semiotic aspects presented in the selected newspaper report on these events?

2. Theoretical Background

2.1. Pragmatics

The theory of utterance-interpretation known as pragmatics is a subfield of cognitive psychology. Utterances communicate conceptual information that is consciously spoken, linguistically encoded, and processed in the context of other conceptual information that is retrieved from or derived from memory.

The study of meaning as it is conveyed by a speaker (or writer) and understood by a listener (or reader) is the focus of pragmatics. Therefore, it involves analyzing what individuals mean when they speak rather than simply determining what the words or phrases signify on their own. The study of speaker meaning is known as pragmatics.

According to Yule (1996), pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning. The interpretation of what individuals mean in each situation and how the context affects what is said is a necessary part of this type of research. It also considers who, where, when, and under what circumstances they are speaking.

In other words, context greatly affects how the listener will interpret the message. Before speaking to the listener, the speaker must be aware of various contexts so that both parties may understand one another. A word can also conjure up or have several meanings depending on the situation or context, such as place, emotion, or time. The study of the interactions between linguistic forms and their users is known as pragmatics. Nobody can discuss people's intended meanings, assumptions, intentions or goals, or the types of activities, which is an advantage of understanding language through pragmatics.

According to Leech (1993), if one does not understand pragmatics the way in which language is used to communicate then one cannot fully understand the properties of

language. This claim proves how pragmatics and language use are inextricably linked since pragmatics is used to interpret language.

2.1.1. Speech Acts

According to Crystal (2003), the term "speech act" refers to a theory that examines the function of expressions in speakers' and listeners' interpersonal communication behavior. Although Austin (1962) and Searle (1969) later gave it a more linguistic slant, the historical tracers of this theory assert that the German philosopher Wittgenstein originally developed it. In his widely known book, Austin (1962) begins by defining two types of utterances: constatives, which he prefers to call statements, and performatives, which he refers to as another category.

Speech activities are now more systematically divided into two categories by Searle (1969) direct and indirect. According to Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, and Svartvik (1985), a direct speech act is one in which the structure matches the function, i.e., a sentence, an interrogative, an imperative, and an exclamative topic, or, more precisely, a statement, a question, an order, and an exclamation. A statement that holds the illocutionary indicators for one type of illocutionary act may also be pronounced to conduct another type of illocutionary deed, according to Searle (1975), to get indirect speech acts. As a result, utterances with two illocutionary forces are indirect speech acts; one is literal (direct), and the other is non-literal (indirect).

The following speech acts are categorised by Searle (1969):

1. Representatives are behaviours that are evaluated according to the truth that they stand for. Assume, derive, etc. are some examples.

2. Directives are actions that the speaker uses when he or she wants the audience to do something. Verbs that fit this category of speech act include "command," "order," "pray," "allow," and "advise."
3. Commissives are actions that the speaker pledges to take in the future. This category includes vows, threats, proposals, rejections, etc. (Huang, 2006).
4. Expressives are behaviours that convey the speaker's emotional state. Examples include saying "thank you," "sorry," "congrats," and other similar expressions (Searle, 1969).
5. Declaratives are activities that the speaker does to convey information between speech and fact, according to Searle (1969). Examples of speech acts falling under this category include nominating a candidate, ending employees, and declaring war (Huang, 2006).

2.1.2. Implicature

According to Grice (1975), who established the implicature, what a speaker is required to say can be separated into what the speaker "says" and what the speaker "implies" by a phrase. This results in what Grice refers to as conversational implicature. According to him, to suggest something is to infer something that may go beyond what is said. Implicature is defined as what the speaker might imply, show, or mean in addition to what the speaker says (Levinson, 1983). In other words, implication creates some explicit interpretation of how something could signify more than what is explicitly told. The intended message might be communicated by the speaker of an utterance either overtly or indirectly.

According to Charles (2002), an implicature is a bridge the listener (or reader) builds to connect one utterance to a prior utterance, and this linkage is always formed by the listener or reader unintentionally.

2.1.2.1. Conversational Implicature

It happens because of fundamental rules governing expressive behaviours. Grice (1975) explains the phenomena of conversational implicature and lays out the guidelines that allow speakers to invariably imply more than they say. According to Griffiths (2006), conversational implicature refers to inferences that depend on the existence of linguistic prerequisites, such as the widespread belief that communicators should try to tell the truth. Conversational implicature is divided into three categories by Grice (1975): generalized, scalar, and particularized.

When generalized implicatures exist, the additionally conveyed meaning in the context can be measured without the need for any specific information. To put it another way, it happens in a situation when inferences are needed yet there is no clear context. I remember sitting in a garden one day as an illustration of generalized conversational meaning. It is not the speaker's garden in this instance because if it were, he would say, "I was sitting in my garden" (Haung, 2007).

Particularized implicature refers to the fact that most interactions take place in highly specific circumstances where inferences are needed. Certain conclusions are needed to understand the messages being given. According to Yule (1996), this particularized conversational implication takes place when the speaker speaks, and the listener implicitly responds.

2.2. Semiotics

Semiotics is a broad topic that, according to Prior (2014), is primarily concerned with investigating the many forms of signs expressed through various mediums. Semiotics is all about signs, according to Eco (1976). It covers all kinds of signs, including symbols, gestures, visuals, audio, written, and verbal cues. These kinds of symbols or references can be interpreted as references. According to Eco (1976), if anything cannot be understood as a sign or if it does not symbolise anything, it is difficult to consider it to be a sign.

Tsotra, Janson, and Kecmanovic (2004) claim that the only way to understand a sign is to relate it to a common system of conventions in such a way that it becomes a distinctive component of those conventions and has no utility or purpose outside of those systems.

2.2.1. Barthes' Theory of Semiotics

The philosopher, literary theorist, and semiotician Roland Barthes (1915–1980) was from France. In terms of semiotics, he has significantly advanced the study of linguistics in general. One of the key ideas used to analyse and understand sign systems is Barthes' (1968) semiotic theory. The study of signs, the analysis of their structure, and the expression of their meaning all show how useful and practical this theory is (Barthes, 2005).

In Barthes' study of semiotics, he (1968) aims to create a semiology that considers all cultural objects with metaphorical connotations. In the study of semiotics, according to Barthes (2005), one can deal with various kinds of signs and items that have significance even if they are not intended to be communicative, such as furniture, clothing, dishes, etc. Each object or sign, according to Barthes, has a connotative meaning in addition to its denotative meaning. No item can be meaningless, according to Barthes (1990). For instance, the colour of a telephone can be interpreted differently; a pink telephone is associated with femininity or womanhood, while a white telephone signifies luxury.

According to Barthes (1968), any object is considered as a part of a specific discourse based on its connotation, including drinks, food, wine, etc.

The two levels of interpretation for each sign, according to Barthes (1968), are denotation, which is the primary level, and connotation, which is the secondary level.

2.2.1.1. Denotation

According to Barthes (1968), denotation denotes the exact and immediate connection between a sign and its reference. Between the signifier and the signified, there is a relationship of this kind that expresses the sign's clear meaning. The general understanding that is understood and accepted in society is referred to as a sign's denotative meaning. According to Sobur (2009), "the denotative meaning involves referential meaning; it tends to be described as the definitional, or literal, common sense meaning, of a sign" (p. 263).

According to Panofsky (1970), the denotative meaning of a sign refers to the explicit and obvious image that is understood by every individual within a certain culture or civilization. According to Panofsky, "It represents the dictionary meaning of a word or terminology of object" (p. 51).

2.2.1.2. Connotation

Connotation, according to Barthes (1967), is the second level of interpretation that encompasses signifiers and signified. Connotation denotes any sign that may be inferred from its signifier, or any sign that is denotative. To put it another way, there are numerous connotative meanings for each denotation. According to Barthes (1968), the connotative significance of a symbol is the focus. Connotative meaning, according to Fiske (2010), is the "cultural meaning that is attached to a term, it refers to the interaction that occurs when then sign meets the emotions and cultural values of the reader" (p. 54).

2.3. The Language of Newspapers

Newspapers, in general, present "representations" of the social world since the press has tremendous social influence due to its ability to communicate information to

hundreds of thousands of people. According to van Dijk (1996), social power refers to the symbolic and persuading ability to influence targets' thoughts to a certain extent.

According to Baker, et., al. (2008, p. 9), the interaction between the media and its readers is "bi-directional and dynamic." Individual newspapers have a financial incentive to highlight issues that speak to their readers' concerns and represent their beliefs and opinions.

Modern newspapers, according to Fries (2001, p. 13), have a range of easily recognizable "text classes or genres." In the analysis of contemporary English newspapers, a distinction between hard news and soft news is made. Bell (1991) asserts that "hard news" refers to either "spot news" (accidents, catastrophes, and crimes) or to specific key events, such as those involving politics, economics, and diplomacy. The term "soft news" is used to describe "human interest stories" that are typically presented in a "involved, personal, and colloquial style."

2.5. Events in Iran After Mahsa Amini's Crisis

Even though Mahsa Amini's death ignited the protests, tensions have been building for more than a year, with tiny demonstrations breaking out in other parts of the country for assorted reasons. Residents' frustrations with the nation's water shortage and the nation's deteriorating economic conditions were particularly clear during the most of 2021 (Fassili, 2022). Since the nation's new president vigorously enforced harsher standards and rules limiting women's attire and took office in 2021, tensions have increased (Askew, 2022).

However, Mahsa Amini's death stood for the last drop for the Iranian people, who quickly took to the streets to protest their basic rights. Video footage depicts flares in the sky, smoke over the homes, gunfire in the distance, and deadly sights on sidewalks because

of protesters' calls for strikes throughout the preceding few months (Karadsheh, Qiblawi, & Pourahmadi, 2022). Remember that activists and experts are increasingly choosing to characterize the protests as a "national revolt" and reforms to highlight the seriousness of the issue and distinguish them from prior protests.

In retaliation, the police and soldiers of the regime crack down on the demonstrators, use brutality, and shoot those honking their horns. And police officers open fire on both young and old individuals," "clashes between young protesters and heavily armed law enforcement officers." According to Karadsheh, Qiblawi, and Pourahmadi (2002), "shots and flames streaked across the night sky." It should be emphasized that there are other claims that the Iranian government shut down its morality police in response to the protests; however, these claims lack clear official documentation, and the situation is still unresolved (Dudgeon, 2022).

The terrible death of Mahsa "Jina" Amini, an Iranian-Kurdish woman, while in the care of Iran's morality police has drawn the attention of the entire world to the enormous wave of protests that have since broken out. The death of Mahsa Amini was noteworthy because it brought to light Iran's intense domestic issues and public protests at a time when the world's attention is more on Tehran's nuclear program and regional operations (Rojhelati, 2022).

2.6. Mahsa Amini

On September 13, a young Kurdish woman from Iran's Kurdistan Province named Jina ("Mahsa") Amini arrived in Tehran with her family. As she and her brother were leaving Tehran's Haghani metro station, the infamous morality police detained her on the grounds that she was wearing her scarf incorrectly. The officers in the van allegedly beat Jina Amini, according to witnesses in the police car that took her to a detention facility.

Amini was hit in the head shortly after, transferred to Kasra Hospital unconscious, and eventually declared dead because of her injuries.

Most of Iranians and Kurds are indignant over her murder. For the first time, every mother in Iran can relate to and share the sorrow that Jina's mother and hundreds of other families must go through when their daughters and sons are abducted by the security apparatus of the Islamic Regime of Iran (Rojhelati, 2022). The reports chosen from the listed newspapers primarily address the Mahsa Amini topic.

3. Methodology

In this study, a qualitative analysis method was employed. The purpose of this type of study is to investigate a particular occurrence and carefully examine articles deeply rather than constructing a broad image based on classifications or frequency, which are the key aspects of quantitative studies. Qualitative techniques, as defined by Brymann (2012), enable the researcher to see the situation from the perspectives of the participants concerned. A method of analysis may provide valuable qualitative data to fill the gap in social research (Suter, 2011).

Additionally, qualitative research methods "provide a rich and comprehensive viewpoint on the data," claim McEnery and Wilson (1996, p. 76). Because of this, this type of analysis is employed to develop a completer and more thorough analytical framework for discussing terrorist news in the selected articles.

The data were mainly selected on the basis of a certain criterion since the current study's goal is to analyse how newspaper reporting of events in Iran after Mahsa Amini's crisis raise news on such events. According to Rolfe (2006), the following categories best describe the criteria the researcher used to choose the data:

1. Credibility: The researcher focused on the sections of the newspaper report that have diverse language traits, ideological components, and power dynamics when studying the reports from the newspapers.
2. Transferability: Before choosing the samples, the researcher carefully studies the chosen reports to see which ones have the right data for study.
3. Dependability: While performing this task, the researcher has read the chosen reports. Before doing an analysis of the chosen reports, the researcher reads them several times to make sure they are thoroughly understood.
4. Conformability: The researcher uses an eclectic model to analyse the data and address the study's research aims.

For the analysis of selected data, the researcher adopts an eclectic model that is based on Searle's (1969) classification of speech act, Grice's (1975) theory of implicatures and Barthes's (1968) theory of semiotics.

4. Data Analysis

This section is devoted to the analysis of the selected newspaper report that is entitled "Iranian forces open fire on protesters as government buildings burn". This report has been written by Babak Dehghanpisheh, Stefanie Le and Atthar Mirza. October 27, 2022. In this report, the editors talked about the situation in Mahabad in the Kurdish region of western Iran.

Extract (1)

"Violence erupted Thursday in the city of Mahabad and Security forces responded by opening fire on demonstrators...At least seven people were killed and dozens were wounded...".

In this extract, the editors use different pragmatic and semiotic aspects. From the pragmatic point of view, this extract has some forms of speech acts and implicatures. The phrase “Security forces responded by opening fire on demonstrators...At least seven people were killed and dozens were wounded” comprises representative speech acts where the editors describe what happened in Iran after Mahsa Amini’s crisis. The editors discuss how the Iranian security forces responded by killing dozens of protestors.

In terms of implicatures, the phrase “Security forces responded by opening fire on demonstrators...At least seven people were killed and dozens were wounded” includes a conversational form of implicature where the editors conversationally imply that the Iranian security forces stand against the protests and kill the protestors. This conversationally imply that the Iranian regime considers the protestors as violent who stand for a threat to the Islamic Republic. That is to say, the editors believe that the security forces kill the protestors by the order of the Iranian regime.

From the semiotic point of view, the phrase “Security forces responded by opening fire on demonstrators...At least seven people were killed and dozens were wounded” has denotative and connotative levels of meaning. The denotation of this phrase is that the editors talk about the situation in Iran and how the security forces respond to the protests. Its connotation, on the other hand, is that the editors describe how the Iranian regime treated the protestors by killing and wounded them. This means that the Iranian regime stand against the Iranian people’s demands and freedom and treat the with force and death.

Extract (2)

“Security forces, opening fire on demonstrators, seven people being killed, and dozens being wounded,...Death to the Dictator, live ammunition, scrambling for safety, the sound of gunfire, an attack on a mosque, which killed at least 15 people”.

The editors use a variety of pragmatic and semiotic devices in this extract. This extract includes certain speech acts and implicatures, as seen from a pragmatic perspective. The extract “Death to the Dictator, live ammunition, scrambling for safety, the sound of gunfire, an attack on a mosque, which killed at least 15 people” consists of representative

speech acts in which editors clarify the events that accompanied Mahsa Amini's crisis in Iran. The editors describe how did the Iranian regime persecute the protesters over Mahsa's killing.

Regarding implicatures, the words "Death to the Dictator, live ammunition, running for cover, gunfire, an attack on a mosque, which killed at least 15 people" uses a conversational form, indicating that the Iranian security forces have been using unlawful force, killing dozens of people, and injuring hundreds more. Protesters in Tehran raised the slogan "Death to the Islamic Republic" and chanted slogans against state officials, led by Iranian Leader Ali Khamenei. As an expression of their protest what happened to Mahsa Amini, and in objection to the practices of the Iranian security forces that impose wearing of the hijab in public places, women's freedom and rights and overthrowing the government. The emergence of a strong reaction at the level of society against the governance model adopted by the regime.

According to the semiotic theory, the extract "Death to the Dictator, live ammunition, running for cover, gunfire, an attack on a mosque, which killed at least 15 people" has two levels of meaning. The denotative meaning of this statement means that the editors depict the state of events in Iran. Protesters in some Iranian cities, especially the capital, Tehran, chanted slogans against state officials, led by Iranian Leader Ali Khamenei: "Death to Khamenei" and "Death to the dictator." Its connotation, on the other hand, is that the editors describe the society's reaction against the governance. The protesters lift these slogans as a dissent, opposition, disagreement, contraposition and an objection to the practices of the Iranian security forces.

Extract (3)

"the fascists" and "Death to the Dictator," a reference to Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei". "Some in this group take advantage and in their path, they attack and throw rocks at any office or institution that they see and destroy public property," the report said".

In this extract, the editors employ a number of pragmatic and semiotic techniques. From a pragmatic standpoint, some speech acts and implicatures are included in this extract. The words “Some in this group take advantage and in their path, they attack and throw rocks at any office or institution that they see and destroy public property,” the report said” comprise representative speech acts. In this form of speech act, the editors describe the regime’s procedures against the protesters. The Iranian authorities consider the popular protests illegal.

The words “Some in this group take advantage and in their path, they attack and throw rocks at any office or institution that they see and destroy public property,” the report said”, in this text, have a form of implicature. They conversationally imply that the Iranian regime kills the demonstrators and refuses to express their freedom. The Iranian regime tries to impose religious ideas on people of different sects, and practice dictatorship.

In addition to what is found in this extract, it still encompasses two levels of semiotic meaning. The denotation meaning of the phrase “ Some in this group take advantage and in their path, they attack and throw rocks at any office or institution that they see and destroy public property,” the report said” indicates that the Iranian regime rejects the people’s expression of their freedoms and imposes religious thoughts and notions on various sects.

Extract (4)

“The crackdown has been especially brutal in Kurdish areas, which have long been neglected by the Iranian government, and where residents have described a “military-style” occupation over the last six weeks”. “Kurdistan, Kurdistan will be the graveyard of fascists” and “Death to the Dictator,”

The editors adopt specific pragmatic components to convey the pragmatic meaning, such as speech act and implicature which convey the pragmatic meaning. The words in this extract “The crackdown has been especially brutal in Kurdish areas, which have long been neglected by the Iranian government, and where residents have described a “military-style”

occupation over the last six weeks”. “Kurdistan, Kurdistan will be the graveyard of fascists” and “Death to the Dictator,” exhibit representative speech acts. In saying these words, the editors assert that the regime focuses on eliminating the protests on the Kurdish areas that is because Mahsa, the simple of events, is a Kurdish girl and the Kurdish people protest against the regime for her sake.

The extract, furthermore, contains implicature. This form of implicature is conversational. The phrase, “The crackdown has been especially brutal in Kurdish areas, which have long been neglected by the Iranian government, and where residents have described a “military-style” occupation over the last six weeks”. “Kurdistan, Kurdistan will be the graveyard of fascists” and “Death to the Dictator,” means that the Iranian regime imposes its control over minorities, denies its negligence against those people, and tries to impose Islamic laws even on non-Muslims, and this is contrary to personal freedoms and freedom of expression of opinion.

The extract, additionally, involves two levels of semiotic meaning. The denotation of this statement “The crackdown has been especially brutal in Kurdish areas, which have long been neglected by the Iranian government, and where residents have described a “military-style” occupation over the last six weeks”. “Kurdistan, Kurdistan will be the graveyard of fascists” and “Death to the Dictator,” means that the Iranian regime is trying to control all sects and nationalities of the revolting people to eliminate the revolution. On the other hand, its connotation shows that in opposition to individual liberties and freedom of opinion, the Iranian regime tries to enforce Islamic laws even on non-Muslims and asserts its authority over minorities while rejecting any wrongdoing against them.

5. Conclusion

After analysing the selected data, it has been found that the selected sample report includes different pragmatic aspects particularly speech acts and implicatures. The selected extracts contain a representative form of speech acts via which the editors assert, clarify, assure and describe their points of view regarding the events in Iran. These extracts, in the same vein, encompass a conversational implicature where the editors conversationally imply that the Iranian regime deliberately attack the Iranian protests and kill them. This means that the editors accuse the Iranian regime of depriving the Iranian people from their rights of asking for their freedom freely. The extracts, moreover, have some semiotic aspects especially the denotative and connotative levels of significations.

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