Republic of Iraq

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

University of Babylon

College of Education for Human Sciences

Department of English

A Pragmatic Study of Misrepresentation in British and American Political News Reports

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR HUMAN SCIENCES / UNIVERSITY OF BABYLON AS A PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER IN EDUCATION / ENGLISH LANGUAGE / LINGUISTICS

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August   **Muharram**

2021 A.D   **1243 A.H.**

جمهورية العراق

وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي

جامعة بابل

كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية

قسم اللغة الإنكليزية

دراسة تداولية للتضليل في التقارير السياسية الاخبارية البريطانية والأمريكية

رسالة قدمت الى مجلس كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية ـفي جامعة بابل جزءا من متطلبات نيل درجة ماجستير في التربية/اللغة الإنجليزية/ اللغة

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2021 م

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَدَّت طَّائِفَةٌ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ لَوْ يُضِلُّونَكُمْ وَمَا يُضِلُّونَ إِلَّا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ

صدق الله العلي العظيم

(آل عمران: 69)

"A fiction of the people of the scripture wish they could

mislead you. But they do not mislead except themselves and

they perceive not"

(Al-Imran :69) [Ali,2001]

The Supervisor's Certificate

I certify that this thesis entitled (A Pragmatic Study of Misrepresentation in British and American News Reports) written by Ebtehal Salih Hamza has been prepared under my supervision at the College of Education for Human Sciences, University of Babylon, as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master in Education / English Language/

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To
My Parents and my daughter

Acknowledgements

Abstract

This study is concerned with investigating misrepresentation in British and American news reports from a pragmatic perspective. Hence, the study aims to achieve the following: finding out the types of misrepresentation that are used by British and American news reporters, revealing which pragmatic strategies are employed by British and American news reporters in their attempt to misrepresent facts and events in news reports, determining what is the difference, if there is any, between British and American news reports as far as the exploitation of the pragmatic strategies of misrepresentation is concerned, pinpointing which pragmatic strategy has prevalence over other strategies in British and American news reports , and showing if there are any differences between British and American news reports as far as the stages those reports consist of.

The study hypothesizes that: British and American news reporters use fraudulent misrepresentation in an attempt to misrepresent news reports, british and American news reporters make use of speech acts and fallacies as pragmatic strategies in their attempt to misrepresent facts and events, there is no difference between British and American news reports as far as the exploitation of the pragmatic strategies of misrepresentation is concerned, speech act strategy has prevalence over other strategies in British and American news reports, and there is no difference between British and American news reports as far as the stages those reports consist of.

The study follows the following producers in order to fulfill its aims and test the validity of its hypotheses: providing a literature review about misrepresentation from a pragmatic perspective , collecting a sample of news reports from different British and American news sites and newspapers to be the data of the study, using the adopted model to pragmatically analyze the data under scrutiny and a suitable statistical mean to analyze the data quantitatively, and discussing the results of the analysis to come up with certain conclusions.

The study arrives at the following conclusions: although there are three types of misrepresentation, fraudulent, negligent and innocent, both British and American news reporters make use only of the

fraudulent and innocent type of misrepresentation, in order to falsify facts and events in news reports, British and American news reporters employ a variety of pragmatic strategies, these strategies include speech acts, maxims non-observance , fallacies, and persuasive strategies, there are no differences between British and American news reports as far as the exploitation of the pragmatic strategies of misrepresentation is concerned, the pragmatic strategy of speech acts has prevalence over the other pragmatic strategies, and both British and American news reports consist of the same stages when they report news.

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Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter introduces the problem, aims, hypotheses, procedures, and limits of the study. Besides, it familiarizes the readers with the value of its findings that is supposed to be harvested by different fields of language study.

1.1 The Problem

Misrepresentation is described as a false statement of fact made by one party to influence the opinions and behavior of others. According to Metts (1989: 169), it is a statement that does not correspond to the facts. Misrepresentation, also referred to as 'distortion', 'falsity' or 'insincerity' consists of such categories as exaggeration, minimization, and equivocation. As a result, a distorted utterance is one in which the speaker/ writer exaggerates, minimizes, or equivocates rather than of lie outrightly (ibid.). Despite the importance of this topic, it has not been pragmatically given its due scholarly attention particularly in news reports. Thus, to bridge this gap, the current study sets itself the task of probing misrepresentation in news reports from a pragmatic perspective. In other words, the present study is an attempt to answer the following questions:

1. What are the types of misrepresentation that are used by British and American news reporters?
2. What are the pragmatic strategies employed by British and American news reporters in their attempt to misrepresent facts and events in news reports?

3. What is the difference, if there is any, between British and American news reports as far as the exploitation of the pragmatic strategies of misrepresentation is concerned?

4. Which pragmatic strategy has prevalence over other strategies in British and American news reports?

5. Are there any differences between British and American news reports as far as the stages those reports consist of?

1.2 The Aims

This study aims at the following:

1. Finding out the types of misrepresentation that are used by British and American news reporters.

2. Revealing which pragmatic strategies are employed by British and American news reporters in their attempt to misrepresent facts and events in news reports.

3. Determining the difference, if there is any, between British and American news reports as far as the exploitation of the pragmatic strategies of misrepresentation is concerned.

4. Pinpointing which pragmatic strategy has prevalence over other strategies in British and American news reports.

5. Showing if there are any differences between British and American news reports as far as the stages those reports consist of.

1.3 The Hypotheses

This study hypotheses the following:

1. British and American news reporters use fraudulent misrepresentation in these attempts to misrepresent news reports.

2. British and American news reporters make use of speech acts and fallacies as pragmatic strategies in their attempt to misrepresent facts and events.

3. There is no difference between British and American news reports as far as the exploitation of the pragmatic strategies of misrepresentation is concerned.

4. Speech act strategy has prevalence over other strategies in British and American news reports .

5. There is no difference between British and American news reports as far as the stages those reports consist of.

1.4 The Procedures

The procedures adopted to achieve the aims of the study and test the validity of its hypotheses include the following:

1. Providing a somehow literature review about misrepresentation from a pragmatic perspective.

2. Collecting a sample of news reports from different British and American news sites and newspapers to be the data of the study.

3. Using the model developed by the study to pragmatically analyze the data under scrutiny.

4. Using statistical means to analyze the data quantitatively.

5. Discussing the results of the analysis to come up with certain conclusions.

1.5 The Limits

The current study is limited to explore misrepresentation from a pragmatic perspective in selected British and American news reports. The news reports chosen are political ones; they are selected from certain British and American newspapers and news sites, namely "The Guardian,

The Independent, The Telegraph, Mail Online, and The Economist" and
"The New York Times, New York Post, Fox News, and Vox".

1.6 The Value

The current study is hoped to be useful to the fields of applied linguistics, pragmatics, and text linguistics. It is also supposed to be important to students, teachers, and textbook designers, particularly those who are interested in the subject. Moreover, the results of the study are intended to benefit readers in general, since they are expected to provide them with knowledge about news reports in terms of misrepresentation, so that they are not duped by the subtle language used by those who falsify facts and events. Besides, the practical part of the study is supposed to be of obvious importance to those interested in text analysis as the data of the study consists of texts collected from various sources and analyzed to expose various textual aspects.

Chapter Two

Theoretical Background

This chapter presents a theoretical background about misrepresentation .It involves discussing the important relevant issues in general such as meaning , types and its relation to mistake . Besides, it illustrates the relationship between misrepresentation and some other related concepts such as distortion , falsification , and. disinformation However, special emphasis will be given to the pragmatic issues in this regard

2.1 The Concept of Misrepresentation

According to Mallor et al. (2001:1), misrepresentation is defined as an assertion which is not in accord with the truth. It can also be defined as a false declaration which impacts the decision of the others. In law, misrepresentation is known as a false statement that is made by haggling between two sides .It can be featured as fraudulent or innocent.

Galasiniski (2000: 36) argues that the notion of misrepresentation is used to "encompass the gamut of deceptive uses-from straightforward lies/ falsification, through half-truths, to deceptive implications". In such a way, the notion of misrepresentation includes all those cases in which the utterance deviates from what the speaker believes to be a true account of the extralinguistic state of affairs .

For Danler (2005: 46), misrepresentation can be pointed to as insincerity or falsity. Insincerity is a sort of disinformation in which the misrepresentor seeks to twist the world view in the mind of the target so that he is not able to have a healthy attitude to make a decision (Rigotti, 2005: 70-1). In the same vein, Šírová (2016: 200-1) explains that the

5

term misrepresentation is combined with guarantee in commercial contract; it refers to the case in which someone is deceived into a contact by the other contacting side that confirmed untrue statement.

In order to make a misrepresentation actionable, the following requirements must be met: (1) an oral or written declaration by the representative or his agent has to be made, (2) the statement must be a statement of fact, (3) the representation must be made to the representee or to a class of which the representee is a member, and (4) the representation must be false (Web Source1).

Misrepresentation is an umbrella concept which includes under its wings various terms such as deception, lying, fabrication, manipulation and concealment. Deception, Caddell (2004: 1) states, is a convential synthesis which is found in political and military struggle. In fact, many argue that deception is fundamental to the interaction of all humans; it is based on two criteria: firstly, it is deliberate and secondly, it is prepared in order to acquire a feature of the practitioner. Menges (1973: 1031), for example, defines deception as an instance where "misleading or erroneous information is provided to the subject". For Zuckerman et al. (1981: 2), deception is "an act that is intended to encourage a perception or impression in another person that is considered false by the deceiver. Similarly, Whaely (1982: 183) notes that deception is the manipulation of the perceived truth where "professing the false in the face of the true" is the duty of the deceiver.

Oxford English Dictionary (1989) defines the term lying as a false statement with the purpose of deceiving others but there are many problems for this simplification. It is too cramped because it refers to falsity and it is very wide since it permits for lying about something other

than what is being stated (ibid.). Similarly, Primoratz (1984: 52) explains that lying is an untrue declaration with the purpose of making the other party accepts it as true. Galasinski (2000: 23 -98) avers that liars must issue a mendacious utterance to make the targets believe something that they themselves (i.e. liars) think is false in order to lie.

As for fabrication, it can be defined as an intentional action that deviates from truth. Its purpose is to distort by overstatement, concoction and omission. It can be used as an opposite of truth since it is a false statement that is created to be as true (Carson, 2010: 6). According to Handelman (2009: 4), fabrication is an effort by one person to maneuver his fellow to act for certain purposes in a certain way. Fabrication, therefore, is a synonymous with maneuvering which is an elusive notion.

Regarding manipulation, it can be defined as an issue intended to achieve pre-planned goals (Tarasov, 1990: 26). Puzynina (1992: 22) views manipulation as an attempt to affect the targets in such a way that their action is "an instrument of attaining the goals of the manipulator who acts without using force but in such a way that the target does not know the goal of the manipulator's action". For Blass (2005: 19), manipulating others means having them adopt specific goals and viewpoints that put the manipulators' goals and interests in the forefront. In this view, manipulation involves coercion since the manipulators intend to control the manipulated .

Blass (ibid : 173) thinks that the exclusion of information with a secret purpose is called concealment. Garner (2011: 190) defines concealment as "an act of refraining from disclosure especially an act by which one prevents the discovery of something". There are different forms of concealment: (1) active concealment which means the use of words or

acts to hide something with good intent, (2) fraudulent concealment that means hiding with the intent to deceive or defraud, and (3) passive concealment which is the act of maintaining silence when one has the duty to speak (Garner ,2011: 190).

2.2 Types of Misrepresentation

It is important to explain that there are two types of misrepresentation. These include:

1. Fraudulent misrepresentation which can be defined as a false declaration which is made knowingly and without credence(web source 1). This type of misrepresentation is also called dishonest misrepresentation since it is an argument that the defendant made it clear to be false or that the defendant persuaded the other party to enter into a contract recklessly. The injured party can sue to invalidate the defendant's contract and recover damages .

2. Negligent misrepresentation which is made by a person who had no reason basis for believing it to be true. This type of misrepresentation is a statement that before executing a contract, the defendant did not attempt to verify as valid. This is a breach of the "fair treatment" principle that a party must conduct before entering into an agreement. Contract termination and likely penalties are the recourse for negligent misrepresentation (ibid.). Cavico (1997: 57) mentions that the negligent misrepresentation comprises the following tort and misrepresentation elements: a task of attention owed by the defendant to the imposter, untrue statement of material fact by a defendant and damages. Its credo is appropriate in the investment context and a corpus of case law.

3. Innocent misrepresentation which is a type of misrepresentation that the person makes ignorantly. It is a false assertion of material reality by the defendant, who was unaware that the assertion was misleading at the time of the signing of the contract. Usually, the solution in this case is the termination or cancellation of the contract (Web source 2).

2.3 Related Phenomena to Misrepresentation

2.3.1 Distortion

Distortion is shown to consist of categories such as exaggeration, minimization, and equivocation (Metts, 1989: 169). A distorted utterance, as such, is an utterance in which deceivers do not lie so much; instead, they exaggerate, diminish, or mislead (ibid.). In this regard, exaggerations are the actions of excessive representation by providing more information than is required, whereas minimizations are half-truths where deceivers give less information than is required. As far as equivocation is concerned, it is semantically defined as a vague or unclear post and conversationally as an indirect one .This comes in line with what Bavelas et al. (1990: 25) say about equivocations identifying them as vague, or unclear messages pertaining to the indirect category of speech acts.

2.3.2 Falsification

Falsification, also called false attribution, consists of falsely attributing a specific statement to another to persuade the audience that the speaker is simply making a justified interpretation of what was originally said (Galasinski , 2000 : 39).. Falsifications, in other words, are devious claims in which deceivers impute words to other parties that are in line with what the deceivers themselves believe.

2.3.3 Disinformation

The word disinformation has been a discussion point in both the media and academia since the era of the Cold War. Martin (1982:47) believes that disinformation comes from the Soviet word 'Dezinformatsiya,' which is described as the dissemination of false and provocative facts; "the Secret Service of the Soviet Union used it as a convincing tool dependent on forgeries and staged events". Martin (ibid.) lists forgery and manufacturing as components of disinformation.

For Wardle (2017:1), disinformation refers to the intentional production and dissemination of information that is perceived to be inaccurate.

2.3.4 Misinformation and Mal-information

Misinformation, on the one hand, is characterized by many scholarly papers as an error, honest mistake and inaccurate information. It is not meant to mislead, but it is deceptive (Fallis, 2015 : 401). Mal-information, on the other hand, is described as "reality-based information used to damage an individual, organization or nation" (Wardle and Derakhshan, 2018: 21).

2.4 Misrepresentation vs. Mistake

Misrepresentation overlaps with mistake in a significant way. The differences between misrepresentation and mistake that may be worth preserving need to be identified. Misrepresentation and mistake occupy most of the same area, but they are not similar in nature (Hoffer, 2014: 136). A misrepresentation is a statement that is not in accord with truth, whereas a mistake is an assumption that is not in accord with truth .Such meanings are related. If a misrepresenting group effectively argues

something that is not consistent with the facts, its counterparty may retain a conviction that is not consistent with the facts as a consequence. In such a case, one party's misrepresentation makes the other's mistake (Hoffer, 2014: 136).

These two basic forms of mistake and misrepresentation, however, are not equivalent. Mistake requires an erroneous belief. It focuses on the state of mind of the party adversely affected and asks whether the party understood the substance of its bargain adequately. Mistake focuses on the real misunderstanding while misrepresentation asks if, by the negligence of another person, the misunderstanding emerged .

2.5 The Linguistics of Misrepresentation

Numerous basic statements are logically true when taken literally, while they are intuitively false and misleading. So "I drank a glass of wine" is true even if I drank more than one (precisely because); and "I had a lovely evening" is true even if the night I just spent wasn't a lovely one (I was dreaming of a totally different party) (Charnock , 2010 :437-8) . While the argument is practically true in such situations, what is suggested is obviously false.   Therefore, in this area, what is taken into account is what is merely implied, despite the importance of the literal sense of the words used. These cases are both prevalent and varied .

2.5.1 Ambiguity

On the literal level, all statements so vague to the point of being indeterminate, as words are perceived independently of some meaning. Only where contextual characteristics permit disambiguation is communicated possible. Statements are said to be ambiguous when more than one interpretation is logically possible, including in context (Travis, 1996: 451).   Where a statement   is valid in one context but not in the

other, the rule is that the complainant must show both that he interpreted it in one way rather than the other, and that his understanding was incorrect. In certain situations, there is fundamental dispute not only as to whether a statement is true or false, but also as to whether it is necessarily ambiguous (Charnock , 2010 :439).

2.5.2 Truth Values

Many statements are neither true nor false, for different reasons. For instance, there is no question of a right or wrong response in cases of personal choice. A statement of opinion can never be considered false since a person is believed to have unfailing access to his own sensory perceptions and opinions. In addition, while a man may hold an incorrect view, it remains true that it was his view(Charnock , 2010 : 440). Similarly, when a statement of intent is made, it may be genuinely meant and should not be deemed false merely because, in the event, the intended action was never carried out. The fact that personal motives are inaccessible to others, and therefore cannot be communicated, complicates the issue. Moreover , it is difficult to assign any purpose to a corporation as a legal entity at all, or indeed to any other party .

2.6 Misrepresentation in Relation to Speech Act Theory

According to Cutting (2002: 16) and Archer et al. (2012: 35), one of the cornerstones of pragmatics is speech act theory; the interest in which can be traced back to the principle that people use language, whether verbally or in writing, whether honestly or dishonestly, to do things. Crystal (2003:427) notes that from the work of the philosopher J.L. Austin, the word speech act is derived and is now commonly used in linguistics to refer to a theory that analyzes the role of utterances in interpersonal communication in relation to the actions of speakers and

hearers. Thus, Austin (1960) was the first scholar to propose the concept of SAT to explain the functions of interpersonal communication through utterances. He was also the first linguist insisting that speech activities are not simply data vehicles, but rather actions .

Austin (1962: 24) isolates three fundamental senses in which one does something by saying something, hence three kinds of actions are performed simultaneously; these are: locutionary, illocutionary, and per[oolocutionary actions which are actually three basic levels or components with the aid of which a SA is formed. Leech (1983: 199) describes them briefly as follows:

1. Locutionary act: performing an act of saying something.
2. Illocutionary act: performing an act in saying something.
3. Perlocutionary act: Performing an act by saying something.

Following Crystal (2003: 427), a speech act is not an 'act of speech' but a communicative practice, described with regard to the speakers' intentions when speaking and the impact they have on listener. The work initiated by Austin was continued by Searle (1979) who proposed a number of conditions governing the successful production of SAs. These conditions, called felicity conditions, have to obtain for a SA to be appropriate since the performance of a SA needs these conditions. They take their name from a root in Latin-" felix "or" happy" (Mifflin, 2000: 173).

Felicity conditions can be presented as a set of propositions whose truth is normally assumed by the participants in the communicative situation when a particular SA is performed. Hurford and Heasley (1996: 251) aver that the felicity conditions of an illocutionary act are

"conditions that must be fulfilled in the situation in which the act is carried out if the act is said to be carried out properly or felicitously".

Following Galasinski (2000: 81), these conditions can be introduced as follows:

1- Propositional content conditions concerning the propositional act,
2- Preparatory conditions about background circumstances and knowledge about speakers/ writers and hearers/ readers that must hold prior to the performance of the act,
3- Sincerity conditions concerning speakers'/ writers' intentions, beliefs, and desires, and whether the SA under quest is being performed seriously and sincerely, and
4- Essential conditions related to the illocutionary point of an act, namely, "what the utterance counts as".

The violation of these conditions, Galasinski (ibid. 83) argues, is the essence of misrepresentation. This means that most SAs can be used to misrepresent facts and events when they are insincere or when they convey a false presupposition so as to achieve a definite perlocutionary effect on the audience (ibid.). Thus, the violation of the sincerity condition is one of the most universal features of misrepresentation, while SAT , as Birner (2013: 186) mentions, is based on the assumption that SAs can only work if all parties assume that the speaker/ writer is being sincere.

Moreover, Searle proposed a number of dimensions to classify SAs into five categories based on the fit between words and world, psychological state of the speaker/ writer, and the purpose of the

illocution (Archer et al., 2012: 39). These five categories, as presented by Searle (1969: 65), are the following:

1. Representatives: These are demonstrated by actions reflecting the conviction of the speaker/ writer that something is real. They illustrate word-to-world fit as the speakers / writers make a belief fit an already established state of affairs in the world by using them. Faithful reporting of evidence is the illocutionary purpose of these actions. Examples are SAs that *say, imply, assert, infer, insist, define, hypothesize, forecast, announce, attribute, confirm, assert, classify, refute, reveal, contest, recognize, notify, insist, report, forecast, rank, stipulate, and deduce.*

2. Commissives: Speakers / writers commit themselves to performing any future act that demonstrates world-to-word fit by using a commissive, as the speakers / writers undertake to make the world fit the terms. *Promising, pledging, threatening, denying, volunteering and vowing* are examples of such acts.

3. Directives: They are SAs in which the words are aimed at getting something done by the listeners / readers. Since the listeners / readers are expected to perform an operation, they demonstrate word-to-world suit. Examples *include requesting, recommending, authorizing, forbidding, excusing, instructing, encouraging, warning, needing, and inviting.*

4. Expressives: These are actions that state what speakers / writers feel in the words. The illocutionary point of these actions is therefore to express their actors' attitudes towards certain facts and events. *Deploring, embracing, praising, regretting, apologizing, and thanking* are examples of such actions.

5. Declarations: By their very utterance, these SAs, such as *acquitting, disqualifying, declaring, and the like*, change the world. Therefore, their illocutionary purpose is to generate facts and events.

2.7 Misrepresentation in Relation to Conversational Maxims Non – observance

Misrepresentation can be examined in relation to conversational maxims non-observance since it is commonly seen as a violation of one or more of these maxims. According to Grice (1975: 45), the cooperative principle of communication reads as "Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged". This principle is supported by the following maxims:

1. The Maxim of Quantity**,** "Be informative", with its two sub-maxims:
- "Make your contribution as informative as is required".
- "Don't make your contribution more informative than is required".
2. The Maxim of Quality**:** "Try to make your contribution one that is true". Under it falls the following sub-maxims:
- "Don't say what you believe to be false".
- "Don't say that for which you lack adequate evidence".
3. The Maxim of Relation**:** "Be relevant"
4. The Maxim of Manner**,** "Be perspicuous", which includes the following four sub-maxims:
- "Avoid obscurity of expression".
- "Avoid ambiguity".
- "Be brief" (avoid unnecessary prolixity).
- "Be orderly".

2.7.1 Non-Observance Techniques

Violating a maxim is instance of breaching Grice's conversational maxims described above. These can be explained below:

2.7.2 Violation Technique

Violating a maxim is to fail to observe it with the assumption that hearers/ readers will not realize that the maxim is being violated (Birner, 2013: 43). A straightforward example is a lie, where the speakers/ writers make an utterance while knowing it to be false and assume that the hearers/ readers will not know the difference Violation of maxims, in general, is intended to misrepresent (ibid.).

Violation requires unostentatious non-observance of the maxim in order to confuse the target. Via lying, giving irrelevant or ambiguous information, such a violation can take place (Grice, 1975: 47) and (Thomas, 1995:73). As Peccei (1999: 27) argues, this technique does not lead to a clear intended implication, but rather represents some aspect of communication failure in the form of too little or too much knowledge being insignificant or too vague. As shown below, all the maxims of communication can be violated :

1. Violating Quantity

The quantity maxim (henceforth QnM) means that interlocutors in the conversational exchange expect a sufficient amount of information. This means that communications from interlocutors should be straightforward with, perhaps, a bit of briefness (Hatch, 1992: 34). As such, without encoding either too much or too little, the messages are informative (ibid.). Thomas (1995:73) argues that quantity maxim   arises when interlocutors inadvertently immerse their interaction exchange with too

much or too little knowledge for the purpose of misleading and misrepresentation .

2. Violating Quality

Another possibility of violation is that of quality maxim (henceforth QlM). The speaker is assumed to be valid here, but this does not mean that a lie can not be told by him. Lying, Finch (2003: 63) states, is an obvious infringement of this maxim. If the speaker implies a statement without believing it, then his utterance violates quality maxim (Davis 1998: 80).

3. Violating Relation

In addition to QnM and QlM, interactants need to arrange their messages in order to ensure their relevance to the subject in question. The relationship limit (hereinafter RlM) represents such an organization. People do not suddenly shift the topic in question to carry out a good conversation. This is because people typically feel obliged to relate any new addition to the current subject in order to retain some sense of continuity With respect to misrepresentation,   it may be unwittingly violated to deceive others by encouraging them to look for an acceptable meaning (Setton 1999: 7).

4. Violating Manner

The last probability of not unostentatiously following the maxims of communication is that of the maxim of manner .This maxim, following Hudson (2000: 324), usually allows interactants to arrange their messages in an organized manner. In other words, without attempts at obscurity or ambiguity, the speakers encode their data in a way that can be assimilated by the listener .So those who intend to misrepresent show a high tendency

to maxims violation so as to express their messages implicitly and to avoid being judged for what they misrepresent. Thus, they may conceal information by violating the maxim of quantity; issue lies or falsehoods by violating the maxim of quality; divert from the real topic by violating the maxim of relevance; or prevaricate and obfuscate by violating the maxim of manner. In other words, they violate the maxims of cooperativeness so as to fulfill their goals of misleading others and shaping their thoughts. Yet, this violation is not apparent to the targets on the basis that those who misrepresent are adhering to the maxims.

2.8 Misrepresentation in Relation to Fallacious Arguments

Fallacious arguments (henceforth FAs) can be considered as strategies of misrepresentation therefore it seems appropriate to include some information about them. According to Ward and Fearnside (2005: 11), fallacies are brilliant tricks for getting people accept all sorts of false premises as true**.** Walton (1995: 1) describes fallacy as a purposely constructed technique designed to mislead and convince the viewer in order to get the best out of them.

Walton (2007: 21) argues that fallacies are logically incorrect claims, but seem to be right because they look reasonable; they seem to be false arguments that are misleading because they look rationally convincing. The definition of fallacy therefore has a rhetorical aspect, implying that fallacies are types of arguments that seem plausible to convince a target audience that even the most fallacious arguments can persuade them (ibid.).

For Damer (2009:30), FAs are breaches of the requirements of successful arguments. For him, successful arguments should meet the

following five conditions; otherwise, they become Fas (or faulty arguments):

1. A well-formed structure.
2. Premises that are relevant to the truth of the conclusion.
3. Premises that are acceptable to a reasonable person.
4. Premises that together constitute sufficient grounds for the truth of the conclusion.
5. Premises that provide an effective rebuttal to all anticipated criticisms of the argument.

In addition, Damer (ibid.) indicates that FAs derive from one or more of the following conditions:

1. A structural flaw in the argument.
2. A premise that is irrelevant to the conclusion.
3. A premise that fails to meets the standards of acceptability.
4. A set of premises that are insufficient to establish the argument's conclusion.
5. A failure to give an effective rebuttal to the anticipated criticisms of the argument.

Damer (2009,62.) mentions that there are four kinds of fallacious arguments: fallacious structural argument, fallacious acceptable arguments, fallacious relevant arguments and fallacious sufficient arguments. These types are discussed below:

2.8.1 Fallacious Structural Arguments

A good structural argument, according to Damer (2009. 62), is one that follows the principle: One who argues for or against a position should use an argument that meets the fundamental structural

requirements of a wellformed argument. Such an argument does not use reasons that contradict each other, that contradict the conclusion, or that explicitly or implicitly assume the truth of the conclusion. Neither does it draw any invalid deductive inferences.

A fallacious structural argument (FSA) thus incorporates an assumption that implicitly or specifically assumes the reality of the conclusion that contradicts the conclusion of another assumption (ibid. 63).

2.8.2 Fallacious Relevant Arguments

Good arguments must meet the principle of relevance, as Damer (2009: 92) proposes *: "One who presents an argument for or against a position should set forth only reasons whose truth provides some evidence for the truth of the conclusion"* .When an argument violates this principle, it turns out to be a fallacious relevant argument (henceforth FRAs).

In other words, such claims are based on considerations that are indeed unrelated to the reality or excellence of the conclusions. These claims do not provide evidence to support the benefit of the conclusion or have no connection to it (ibid. 93). FRAs include:

1. Wrong Conclusion

When it draws a wrong inference rather than those reinforced by the premises introduced in the statement itself, an argument is fallacious. The proof, however, has little effect on the clear conclusion of merit or truth or merit (ibid. 97).

2. Wrong Reasons

Often, to justify a specific conclusion, the argumentator uses proof that does not support the conclusion. As such, the theory of significance is violated. The conclusion is reached with this form of FAs before the defective premises are imposed (ibid.)

3. Irrelevant Authority

When the argumentator makes use of irrelevant appeals to any authority, an argument becomes fallacious (Fearnside and Holther, 1959: 103). For Damer, (2009: 102), when an argument is supported by calling the judgment of a person who has power in the region, of an authority or of a biased authority, an authority is irrelevant. Such use of authority is regarded by Romanik (2014: 274) as a form of product recommendation that affects the positive admission of the marketed product and is considered to be the success assurance examined.

4. Tradition

In return for evidence, the arguer attempts to convince others of his argument by appealing to tradition, i.e. their feelings of veneration or esteem for a tradition. As a replacement for relevant facts, such an appeal is used (Damer, 2009: 108). As Govier (2010: 380) points out, this form of FA arises when the premises of the argument describe the fact that a substance, opinion or practice is presently acceptable because it was prevalent in the past.

5. Self-Interest

It can occur that the arguer lacks relevant facts and therefore resorts to appealing to the desires of his targets to support his arguments. The 'appeal to self-interest' is regarded as such a form of defective reasoning

(Damer, 2009: 110). It violates the significance principle of good argument because no real proof is given.

6. Manipulation of Emotions

It is proposed that it is deeply entangled with suggestions and emotional overtones while argumentation occurs in marketplace interaction (Walton, 2008: 106). For instance, effective advertisement seems to involve well-orchestrated allurements to emotions (ibid.). Although they are compelling arguments, such allurements suffer from the problem of being fundamentally weak (ibid.: 107). This implies, as Damer (2009: 112) points out, that in order to justify a conclusion, the arguer does not provide relevant facts. It must be important to the fact or merit of the conclusion or count in favor of it.

2.8.3. Fallacious Acceptable Arguments

According to Damer (2009: 120), acceptable arguments follow the principle that "one who makes an argument for or against a position should use reasons that are likely to be acceptable to a mature, logical individual and that meet standard acceptability requirements" . On the other hand, fallacious acceptable arguments (hereinafter FAAs) are defined by the use of a proposition which does not fulfill the acceptability criterion conditions. It is an appropriate to explain that the following types of FAAs are required to be included.

1. Fallacious Argument of Division

For Woods et al. (2004: 252), FA confuses reasoning with that of pieces with reasoning about wholes. As Damer (2009: 142) points out, it means, phrased differently, that a property of the whole is also a property of its parts. Gover (2010: 381) accordingly attributes its fallaciousness to

the lack of a conceptual distinction between wholes and sections, groups and representatives. Wholes or groups also have structures, relationships and properties that vary from those of the components that make them up.

2. Fallacious Argument of Composition

This type of FA implies that, what is true of the sections of a whole is true of the whole. An indefensible or unjustified presumption is the implicit principle used in the fallacy of composition, namely that what is true of the components of a whole is also true of the whole. While, in some instances, this statement may be valid, it does not merit our acceptance as a general argument. In addition, any assumption which explicitly or implicitly employs such an unjustified assumption can not be appropriate (Damer, 2009: 140).

3. Misleading Accent

Here, the statement places a focus on or emphasizes a chosen aspect of a problem that can lead another to draw an unjustified conclusion about it (Damer,2009, 126).

2.8.4 Fallacious Sufficient Arguments

Following Damer (2009: 160), targets are often lead to defective justification by using fallacious sufficient arguments (hereinafter FSA). He suggests the following principle *"One who presents an argument for or against a position should attempt to provide relevant and acceptable reasons of the right kind, that together are sufficient in number and weight to justify the acceptance of the conclusion."* The violation of this theory, however, brings out targets for the pit of fallacious argumentation. FSAs include:

1.Insufficient Sample

Fearnside and Holther (1959:31) put the principle of "inferring a general conclusion based on an experience with others that statistical science expresses as inadequate depending on the size of the variable or population being evaluated" at the forefront. Walton (2008, 148) justifies the fallaciousness of this form of justification by the rapid jumping of the reasoning to arrive at a conclusion followed by the evidence's skimpiness.

2. Popular Wisdom

Damer (2009: 170) attributes its fallaciousness to the use of insights formulated in the form of aphorisms, folk wisdom, clichés or common sense as far as this flawed reasoning is concerned. Nevertheless, it fails to demonstrate that the proposition is expressed .

3.Causal Oversimplification

Despite the fact that causal factors may account for an incident, these factors may not be sufficient to explain the occurrence in question or to overemphasize the position of those factors. In other words, there are large number of antecedents in the cause or sufficient state of an occurrence that are sufficient for the event to occur only together. (Damer,2009,179).

4. Key Evidence

Perhaps, the sufficiency requirement of a successful argument is violated when critical or key facts required to support a particular inference is simply missing from the premises of an argument. The error that is made is not a failure to provide proof that might make the claim a powerful one; it is simply a failure to provide the requisite proof to make the point at all(ibid.).

To summarize , the following table is a sketch of the types of fallacious arguments.

Types of Fallacious Arguments

Fallacious Structural Argument

Fallacious Sufficient Argument

Fallacious Relevant Arguments

Fallacious Acceptable Arguments
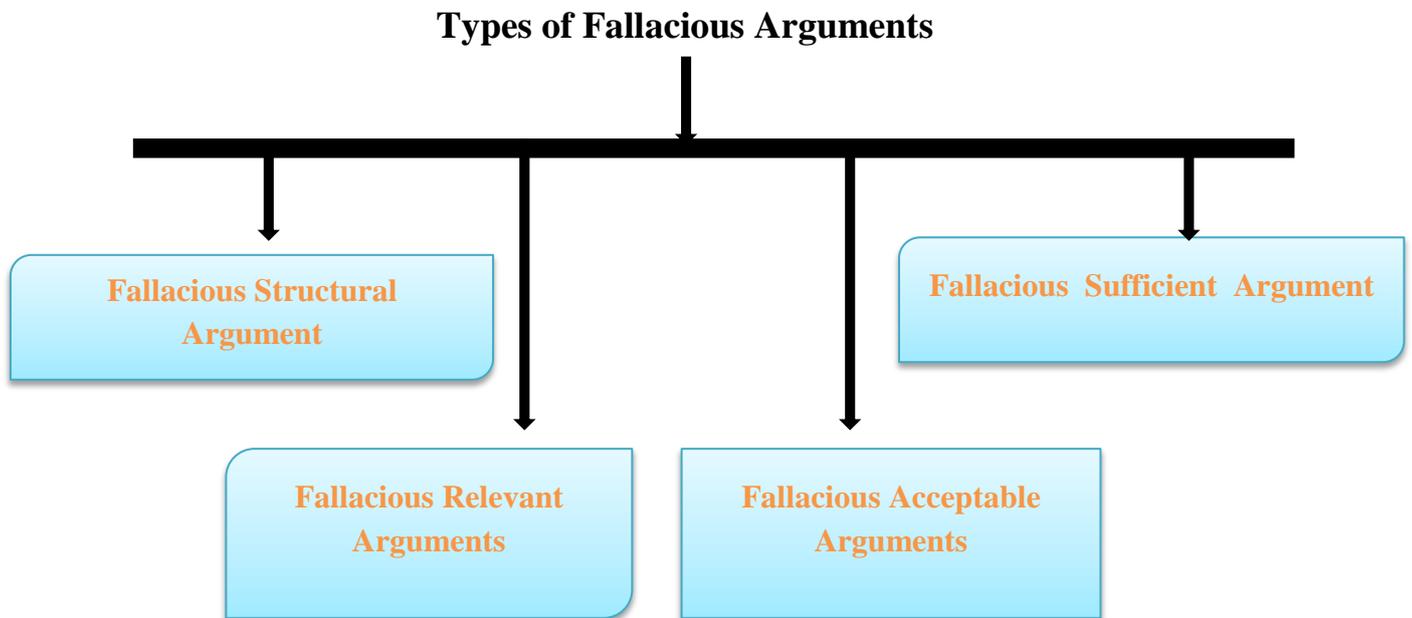
Figure(1): Types of Fallacious Arguments

2.9 Aristotle's Modes of Persuasion

Perloff (2010: 8-9) emphasizes that the modes of persuasion form the central foundation of rhetorical argumentation (of which news reports are a type) wherein the arguer can attempt to convince an audience by relying more strongly on one of the points of the triangle represented by the arguer himself, the audience, or the argument. Therefore, three types of argumentative tools are available. The first type depends on the personal character of the speakers/ writers; the second type depends on placing the listener in a certain frame of mind; the third depends on the evidence

presented by the words of the speech itself (Richardson, 2007: 151). For Richardson (ibid. 181), these argumentative tools are called Aristotle's appeals which are presented as follows:

1. Ethos: the essence of the claim or the manner in which people are more likely to believe in those who believe that they are trustworthy or informed about the matter under debate,
2. Pathos: the use of emotional themes or emotional language to make the audience more sensitive to the assumptions of the arguer, and
3. Logos: the way a good argument draws upon reasoning in order to support a conclusion.

Firstly, Aristotle's appeals to logos, pathos, and ethos have traditionally been understand by popular debate on ancient Greek rhetoric. According to Aristotle (1990:120) ,logos relates to "the speech itself , in so far as it proves or seems to prove ". The persuasive mode logos is also called "rational appeal". This implies creating a sense of reasoning in the audience, either inductive or deductive, and enabling them to make the logical connection in the speech . Appeals to logos contain appeals to numbers, arithmetic, logic, and objectivity. Inductive reasoning uses examples to draw conclusions (historical, mythical, or hypothetical). From logos, the word logic evolved. As fundamental to the mechanism of rhetorical innovation, Aristotle emphasizes enthymematic reasoning .

By logos, an audience can be convinced. Essentially, it is most probable that an audience would be persuaded by an argument backed by proof and logic. As Richardson (2007: 161) puts it, this implies that logos or logical arguments can be used as appeals that argumentators can use to convince the audience that their arguments are correct.

Secondly, pathos can be called "emotional appeal; it appeals to the sense of belonging, self-interest, and emotions of the audience. (Richardson, 2007, 160). An audience can be persuaded through pathos (or emotion) wherein using pathos in an argument is intended to move the audience from one emotional state to another. Put differently, pathetic arguments may move an audience to anger, pity, or fear wherein the arguer uses such arguments to put the audience in a frame of mind that makes them more receptive to what the arguer wants them to believe.

Richardson (2007,162) suggests that using fear of the other, as an argumentative persuasive appeal, is a largely delusional construction used "ad nauseam" in political discourse and political news reports. An arguer, for instance, can misrepresent an event through the use of fear of immigrants, terrorists, or Muslims to prime an audience and make them more receptive to the claims and conclusions intended by the argument because when the audience is fearful, they will agree to all manner of conclusion, or questionable governmental policies without hesitation (ibid.). Further, other emotions such as pity and anger can be resorted to in order to misrepresent and succeed in persuading the audience of the misrepresentation.

Thirdly, it is possible to assume that people are more likely to be convinced by the character of the argumentator, or what is called ethos. In other words, someone of good faith, someone with qualifications, or someone with first-hand experience appears to persuade them as Richardson (2007. 159). Moreover, Fortenbaugh (1996:151) sustains that the arguer must be able to present himself as a certain type of person and the audience must believe that the arguer is this certain type of person exhibiting the qualities of wisdom, experience, or virtue. Ethos ,therefore, denotes the disposition, character, or fundamental principles unique to a

particular entity, individual, corporation, society, or movement in modern use.

2.10 Pragma- rhetorical Tropes

Rhetorical devices are of different forms: phonological, structural, and pragmatic. (McQuarrie & Mick, 1996:426) the pragmatic ones are of interest to the current study because, in addition to what is simply communicated, they require an inference on the part of the speakers/writers. Corbett (1990: 426) assures that rhetorical devices are divided into "excessive order or regularity" structures and "a deviation in the ordinary signification of words" tropes, which is why they give ambiguous details to the audience. Tropes, which are of interest to this study, are asymmetric: tropes of substitution and tropes of destabilization. Substitution tropes pick "an expression that requires an adjustment by the message recipient in order to grasp the intended meaning"

Harris (2008: 5) notes that these tropes are called 'emphasis tropes' because they are meant to exert emphatic effects on the goals. For the present analysis, only overstatement is important. Destabilization tropes, on the other hand, are tropes in which one means more than is said to confuse the viewer by involving a word whose meaning is indeterminate in its sense (McQuarrie & Mick, 1996: 433). With regard to the present study, these tropes involve metaphor and allusion.

News reporters strive to reassure their audience of the accuracy of what they say by the employment of pragma-rhetorical tropes in order to skillfully distort incidents, reports, and explanations. The purpose of these tropes is to convince others of accepts the reporters' viewpoints (Richardson, 2007: 64). Van Dijk (1991:217; 1996:24) claims that journalism's success depends on the use of pragma-rhetorical tropes as a

kind of argumentation. Tropes are also strategically used to distort implicitly by stressing particular meanings. In the process of misrepresenting news, the following tropes, Richardson (2007:65) mentions, are the most commonly used:

2.10.1Overstatement

Leech (1983: 33) describes overstatement as "a case where the speaker's description is stronger than the actual situation". This includes exaggerating or picking a point on a scale greater than the actual state of affairs. With regard to news reports, overstatement is the act of exaggerating something (an event, a fact, or a description) with the aim of making it more serious and more important and to lay emphasis on it (Brown & Levinson, 1987: 219).

2.10.2.Metaphor

According to McGlone (2007: 2), using a metaphor entails a deliberate breach of the conventions of truthfulness because it requires perceiving one thing in terms of another. In transforming minds and perceptions, a metaphor is therefore regarded as an influential device.There are certain forms of metaphor that are correlated with particular genres of journalism, Richardson (2007: 65) says that "bubble bursting", "peaks", "stagnating" and "troughs" are terms used in economic news, for example.

To elaborate, Richardson (2007,162) suggests that war is often stated using metaphorical structures. As an example, Lule (2004: 184) shows that most news reports were dominated by the following metaphors during the prelude to the US/UK invasion of Iraq in 2003: "the Timetable," "the Saddam Games," "the Patience of the White House, and "Making a Case/Selling the Pla".

2.10.3 Allusion

It is an instance of purposive ambiguity through which one can covertly or indirectly refer to someone or something (Lennon, 2004:39). Allusions, thus, can be used strategically to affect the overall meaning through misrepresenting communicating a particular meaning or emotion that would impact the audience.

2.11 The Concept of News

News is one of the most important fields of research. From various perspectives, there are several ways to define news. MacKane (2006:1) , for example, refers to the concept of news saying "news is anything which interests a large part of the community and which has never been brought to their attention". This definition therefore emphasizes the argument that news must attract the attention of people and if it is popular for readers, it will not interest them. About 500 years ago, the term "news" was often used to characterize what journalists find in real life (Burns, 2004: 49). Furthermore, it gives information for people to act their opinions about the events of the world that happen around them.

Fowler (1991:13) claims that news "is not only what happens, but what can be seen and viewed as newsworthy", where "newsworthy" means that it is attractive or sufficiently significant to be reported as news. Bell (1991: 191) states that much of the news published by news reporters is generated by an authoritative source, in other words, an 'accessed voice,' such as a member of the government. Beard (2000:18) stresses that in news reports, language is not free of values; rather it is a means of expressing and forming a set of beliefs. It is not anything different from the ideas it includes, but it tells a lot about how the ideas were influenced by the way language is used.

Rich (2010: 12-6) notes a range of characteristics that maintain the relevance of news. These include the following:

1. Timelessness: implies that events occur in time before the day of news dissemination or events in the future can occur.
2. Proximity: It means that the incidents that occur are important to local readers or that they are close to society in general. As a consequence, these activities can interest readers and interest them in their attention.
3. Unusual nature: It implies that occurrences are rare or widespread, in another word, they are imminent in nature.
4. Human interest: It means that people , generally , like the stores of the other people those who achieve something great or who make changes in their life for better living.
5. Conflict: The more conflict the news has, the greater the number of readers would be because people are either searching for, and arguments between people and governments or vice versa.
6. Impact: implies the readers' answer by reading stories such as tragedy or something like this.
7. Helpfulness: stories that deal with incidents that look after the stories of people.
8. Helpfulness: Stories that deal with events taking care of people's stories.
9. Celebrities: It means those who are famous in their community like politician and actors.
10. Entertainments: It means the stories that make people feel cool and better by funny stories.
11. Trends : It means the stories that affect people' lives and the way they live such as the rates of crimes and some other social matters.

2.11.1 Types of News

Depending on the events that arise, news has many kinds. Nevertheless. Rowe (2005: 18) distinguishes between these two types:

A. Hard news: The news that deals with or could still be current activities and trends that occur today. This news is serious and newsworthy for individuals and cannot be postponed for another day. Politics, economics, legislation, research, crime, etc. are the forms of such news.

B. Soft news: This news adds items to be remembered or incidents. Yet, such news is not urgent or should be circulated on the same day, or social news, in other words, tomorrow or any other day, they will be told. The categories of such news are persons, locations, issues with societies and so on.

2.11.2 The Language of News

Generally speaking, without adapting the meaning of subjectivity, the language of news should be objective and impartial McKane (2006:1058). Consequently, the vocabulary of the news is essential to understand the linguistic aspects of language for journalists and media workers. The way language is used dictates how viewers will be influenced by the news. It discusses in numerous ways the language of news. One of these approaches is that the language structure must be brief and simple. Therefore, the strong sentences are those that do not make the reader read the news story more than one time to know what the news is about. In addition to this , using short forms of the verbs is preferable like, for example, instead of saying "Tom has promised", it is preferable to say "Tom promised".

2.11.3 Parts of the News

In particular, news has components that shape the structure of telling any event. It is necessary to have a defined formula in which the data is well structured for the readers. The key elements of news stories are described by Rich (2006:37) as follows:

Some common elements are shared by news reports in all the newspapers. Every news report is based on a single primary concept called the subject. A headline and three general components are included in the basic news story structure: a beginning, called the "lead," a middle, called the "body," and an ending. The focus is on the lead. Yet, the headline is important because it has lead points that are identical.

1. Headlines

Headlines are one part of a news story. To draw a reader's attention, it is placed at the top of the news. Pajunen (2008:8) describes the key feature of the news as a headline. This is used to get the readers to read the news story. At the same time, its position plays an important role in establishing the reach of the news that directly directs readers. Reah (1998:13) mentions that the headline conveys a variety of tasks that govern its type, content and structure in particular. It also thoroughly demonstrates the news story with a limited number of terms that make the reader excited to learn the news more profoundly.

Westley (1953:115) delves further into headlines as "any line or series of show style lines precedes a story and summarizes or presents it as a headline". Thus, Van Dijk (1998:121) argues that headlines describe the discourse's general coherence or semantic unity, and also what knowledge readers memorize best from a news story. They convey the

most relevant knowledge about the journalists' cognitive model, that is, how the news event is seen and described.

2. Leads

The second component of the framework of the news is called lead. Its location is after the news headline. Leads should be short and straight to the point at the moment (Silcock et al, 2014:122). Brown and Yule (1983:125) assert the position of the leads to provide a significant introduction to the news to the reader to give clues on what the next one will be. Bell (1991:183) adds more about leads' function stating that "it must begin to tell the story as well as summarizing it. It must provide a springboard for telling the whole story , not just a summary". Werlich (1976:70) refers to the lead as the news story's first sentence that sums up the news events. Leads cannot always be in one sentence, but they can have more than one sentence.

3.Body /Lead Development

Bednarek and Caple (2012: 97) state that the development of the body/lead represents the paragraphs that follow the lead paragraph, adding to the report various kinds of detail by incorporating information attribution features, including direct quotes.

2.11.4 Fake News

There are various definitions for different scholars concerning the concept of fake news. According to Allcott and Gentzkow (2017:213), fake news is produced and disseminated for various ideological, monetary and propaganda purposes. Marsden (2017:29-31) has a different view of fake news. Fake news is "the heartfelt cry of politicians who feel misled by the online media". According to Allcott and Gentzkow (2017:213),

the term 'fake news' can be defined as news articles which are knowingly and verifiably inaccurate and this may deceive readers. They define fake news as "intentionally and verifiably false designed to mislead the reader".

Fake news may also be seen as a particular type of misrepresentation (Fallis, 2015,401-26). There is a lack of honesty in fake news stories; however, they do not have to be actually false-they may only be dishonest in stating something that is basically true, but that conveys anything false. A lack of truthfulness is what turns false or deceptive claims into fake news. In other words, fake news goes along with the intention to deceive or deny the truth, in which case they fall into the category of bullshit.

For Lazar et al. (2017:1094-6), fake news is described as disinformation that has conventional news media trappings with suspected related editorial processes. Mustafariaj and Metaxas (2017:235) state that fake news refers to "lies interpreted as news, i.e. online falsehoods formatted and distributed in such a way that they could be mistaken by a reader for real newspapers". Paskin (2018:254) defines fake news as "particular news articles that originate either on mainstream media (online or offline) or social media and have no factual basis, but are presented as facts and not satire".

It can be concluded that there are numerous and varied meanings of fake news based on the above definitions. Words used to describe fake news are false news, misleading, fabricated, distortion, disinformation, online falsehood, deliberate false facts and so on.

2.11.4.1 Fake News Typology

Tandoc et al. (2018:137-53) distinguish two dimensions to illustrate the typology of fake news. These two dimensions are facticity and deception. Facticity is described as the degree to which facts rely on false news. Deception has been seen as the degree to which the fake news producer tries to deceive. Accordingly, Tandoc et al. (ibid.) suggest six forms of fake news are identified:

1. News satire: It is relating to mock news shows, commonly using humor or exaggeration to present news updates to viewers. Usually, these shows concentrate on current affairs and also use the format of a broadcast of television news (a "talking head" behind a desk, with illustrative graphics and video), much like a daily news show.

2. News parody: With satire, it shares many features as both rely on humor as a means of attracting an audience. It also utilizes a format for presentation that mimics conventional news media. The use of non-factual details to inject comedy is where parodies vary from satires. Parody plays on and illustrates the ludicrousness of problems by making up totally fake news stories.

3. Fabrication: It refers to stories that have no factual basis, but are written to establish authenticity in the style of news articles. There is no tacit agreement between the author and the reader, unlike satire, that the item is fake. The purpose is, though, always quite the opposite. The maker of the commodity also plans to misinform himself.

4. Photo manipulation: The manipulation to create a false narrative of actual photographs or videos. If the previous categories usually apply to text-based products, visual news is listed in this category. With the advent of digital photos, efficient image processing tools, and

knowledge of techniques, manipulation of images has become an increasingly popular phenomenon.

5. Advertising and public relations: Advertising materials are released as news in the form of genuine news stories as well as press releases. Video news releases are defined as fake news based on this concept.

6. Propaganda: It refers to news stories that a political party produces to affect public beliefs.

2.11.4.2.Criteria for Fake News Recognition

Deliberate misinformation spread by print and broadcast news media or online social media consists of fake news (Web source 3). In fact, such news, portrayed as factually true, is intended to confuse or cause confusion or dissatisfaction in order to achieve political benefits, often with exaggerated or clearly false headlines that attract publicity.

According to the Collins English Dictionary (Web source 4), fake news is inaccurate, frequently sensational information disseminated under the cover of authentic news to manipulate the views of readers/listeners. Most reporters believe that (1) death, war, and suffering hoaxes, and (2) social identity hoaxes are the most important forms of fake news.

Several signs are said to describe fake new. These can be summarized as follows: (1) fake news is slanted and biased; imprecise and sloppy; (2) fake news violates the principle of sufficiency in that its premises do not offer adequate support or proof to prove an argument, but it seems fair because reporters use a reason that sounds plausible but is actually fake to support the point of view in question.

Ryerson University 2017 (Web source 5) conducts research in support of these points on the most pointed characteristics of fake news, particularly political and war news, which distinguish it from other forms of intentional misinformation. The results of the study show that the following characteristics can classify fake news:(1)playing on emotions (gratifying emotions), (2) taking a stance on a highly controversial issue, (3) is linked to a political issue,(4) is sensational, topical, vilifying, and irresistible, and (5) is breaking news and clickbait. Fake news can be characterized linguistically by the following signs whose perusal is pragmatically critical in intensifying the purpose of the reporters .

According to Burgoon et al. (1996:726), pronoun usage (avoiding first person pronouns and preferring other pronouns) and words pertaining to feelings and sense (inclination to the use of more expressive words and sense verbs). Dilmon (2009: 1152-61) lists other criteria: (1) excess in the use of words with a negative semantic load, (2) repetition of such false claims, (3) ambiguous expressions, as well as hints and symbols.

2.12 The Eclectic Analytical Model

The model that is constructed to analyze the data of the current study in agreement with its objectives is eclectic based on Searle's (1979) model of speech acts, Grice's (1975) model of cooperative principle and conversational maxims, Damer's (2009) model of fallacious arguments, and Walton's (2007) model of persuasive strategies. The model is based on the premise that misrepresentation in political and war news reports is a multi-dimensional process that can be broken down into stages. This is relevant to the idea that each news report may be split down into three

practical stages: initiating (headline), constructing (lead), and maximizing (body/lead development). Each of these stages is realized by means of certain pragmatic strategies which could include those of speech acts, maxims violation, fallacy, and persuasive strategies. Each of these pragmatic strategies is divided into sub strategies. Representatives, commissives, directives, expressives, and declarations are relevant to speech act strategy . Quality, quantity, manner and relation are relevant to maxims violation. Then, wrong reason, wrong conclusion, tradition, authority, self-interest and manipulation of emotion is applicable to fallacy. Finally, persuasive strategies are divided into two groups: pragma-rhetorical tropes and argumentative appeals. Each of these groups consists of sub strategies, that is the former includes overstatement, allusion and metaphor while the latter involves pathos, logos and ethos.

What remains is the practical schematization of the above-mentioned model according to which the data of the current work are analyzed in the following chapter taking into consideration that the first step in the analysis is pinpointing the characteristics that render the news report as fake (i.e., with misrepresentation). As a result, Figure (2) below is a schematization of this model

News Report

Structure

Initiating stage

(Headline)

Constructing stage

(Body)

Maximizing stage

Body/ lead development

Pragmatic strategies of misrepresentation

Speech Acts

Maxims Violation

Fallacious Arguments

Persuasive Strategies

Representatives

Commissives

Directives

Expressives

Declaration

Quantity violation

Quality violation

Relation violation

Manner violation

Irrelevant authority

Wrong reason

Tradition

Wrong conclusion

Self Interest

Manipulation of emotion

Argumentative appeals

Tropes

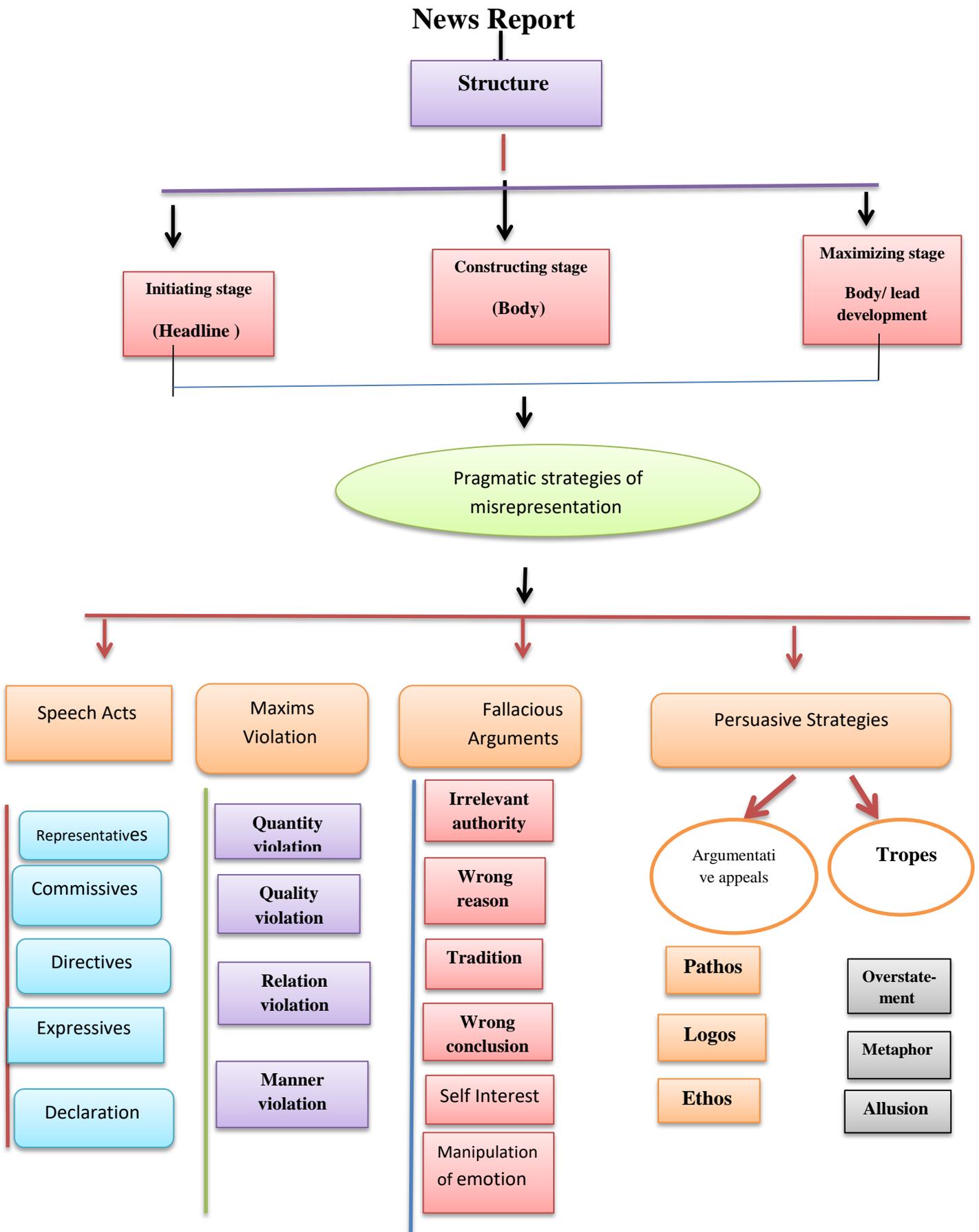Pathos

Logos

Ethos

Overstate-ment

Metaphor

Allusion

Figure (2:) The Eclectic Model of Analysis

Chapter Three

Data Collection , Analysis, and Discussion

This chapter is concerned with the data of the study including their collection and description. Besides, it introduces two types of analysis: pragmatic and statistic. The findings are discussed in relation to the aims and hypotheses of the current study.

3.1 Data Collection

The data of the study selected to be analyzed in the present chapter represent 10 British and American news reports collected from British newspapers and news sites "The Guardian، The Independent, The Telegraph, Mail Online, and The Economist" and American newspapers and news sites "The New York Times, New York Post, and Vox". The chosen data are evenly distributed as follows:

1. Five news reports are chosen from the selected British newspapers and news sites and five news reports are picked up from the chosen American newspapers and news sites.

2. The selected news reports represent two news causes: the cause of Iraq's 2003 war and weapons of mass destruction pretext, and the Syrian cause regarding Syria's possession of chemical weapons and the chemical attacks on civilians.

3.1.1 Contextual Factors Governing the Data of the Study

Because context is a pragmatic meaning principle that is vital for assessing any sort of discourse, it is necessary to refer to the contextual factors that regulate the data in this study. It is based on the following

factors. To this end, Hymes' (1974,54-62) model of context of situation is adopted for the purpose of describing the data which are described in relation to the current study's data:

- Setting

Setting refers to the time and place of the speech/ writing. As for the selected news reports، they are written and published or evinced in Britain and America during the period extending from 2001 to 2018

- Participants

The speaker(s)/writer(s) and the audience (hearer(s), reader(s), and others) are referred to as participants. The news reports chosen for this study are each published by one or two reporters and are primarily aiming at the British and American publics, as well as the world public

- End

The goal or objective of what is stated or written is the end. The purpose of the selected news pieces is to misrepresent reality in order to influence public opinion and motivate people to take action.

- Act sequence

The form and content of what is said/written is referred to as the act sequence. To put it another way, it relates to the manner in which something is spoken or written. It can also refer to the way something is stated or written. The title, lead, and body/lead development make up the structure of news reports.

- Key

It's the cue that sets the "tone, style, or spirit" of what's being said in the text. This style is official and serious when it comes to news reports.

- Instrumentalities

This element relates to the medium through which what is said/written flows, which could be speech, writing, or other forms of communication.

- Genre

Genre is the kind of speech/ writing. The data under scrutiny represent political and war news reports.

3.2 Analysis

3.2.1 Methods of Analysis

The model developed in Chapter Two (See 2.12) is the staple apparatus for the pragmatic analysis of the data. It involves two types of analyses: descriptive and statistical analyses.

3.2.2. Pragmatic Analysis

Before pragmatically analyzing some illustrative examples from each cause that represents the data of the study, whether British or American, some points should be brought to the forefront:

a. The analysis of the selected examples is consummated as follows: shedding light on the criteria that render each news report fake (with misrepresentation). As far as the stages are concerned, each news report consists of three stages: the initiating stage, the constructing stage, and the maximizing stage.

b. Each report is referred to as a text (T1, T2, and so forth) in the analysis conducted.

3.2.2.1 Illustratively Analyzed Examples

3.2.2.1.1 British News Reports with Misrepresentation

(T1)

"WMD just a convenient excuse for war, admits Wolfowitz "

The Bush administration focused on alleged weapons of mass destruction as the primary justification for toppling Saddam Hussein by force because it was politically convenient, a top-level official at the Pentagon has acknowledged. The extraordinary admission comes in an interview with Paul Wolfowitz, the Deputy Defence Secretary, in the July issue of the magazine Vanity Fair

.Mr Wolfowitz also discloses that there was one justification that was "almost unnoticed but huge". That was the prospect of the United States being able to withdraw all of its forces from Saudi Arabia once the threat of Saddam had been removed. Since the taking of Baghdad, Washington has said that it is taking its troops out of the kingdom. "Just lifting that burden from the Saudis is itself going to the door" towards making progress elsewhere in achieving Middle East peace, Mr Wolfowitz said. The presence of the US military in Saudi Arabia has been one of the main grievances of al-Qa'ida and other terrorist groups.

"For bureaucratic reasons we settled on one issue, weapons of mass destruction, because it was the one reason everyone could agree on," Mr Wolfowitz tells the magazine. The comments suggest that, even for the US administration, the logic that was presented for going to war may have been an empty shell. They come to light, moreover, just two days after Mr Wolfowitz's immediate boss, Donald Rumsfeld, the Defence Secretary, conceded for the first time that the arms might never be found. The failure

to find a single example of the weapons that London and Washington said were inside Iraq only makes the embarrassment more acute. Voices are increasingly being raised in the US and Britain demanding an explanation for why nothing has been found. Most striking is the fact that these latest remarks come from Mr Wolfowitz, recognised widely as the leader of the hawks' camp in Washington most responsible for urging President George Bush to use military might in Iraq. The magazine article reveals that Mr Wolfowitz was even pushing Mr Bush to attack Iraq immediately after the 11 September attacks in the US, instead of invading Afghanistan.

There have long been suspicions that Mr Wolfowitz has essentially been running a shadow administration out of his Pentagon office, ensuring that the right-wing views of himself and his followers find their way into the practice of American foreign policy. He is best known as the author of the policy of first-strike pre-emption in world affairs that was adopted by Mr Bush shortly after the al-Qa'ida attacks. In asserting that weapons of mass destruction gave a rationale for attacking Iraq that was acceptable to everyone, Mr Wolfowitz was presumably referring in particular to the US Secretary of State, Colin Powell. He was the last senior member of the administration to agree to the push earlier this year to persuade the rest of the world that removing Saddam by force was the only remaining viable option.

The conversion of Mr Powell was on full view in the UN Security Council in February when he made a forceful presentation of evidence that allegedly proved that Saddam was concealing weapons of mass destruction. Critics of the administration and of the war will now want to know how convinced the Americans really were that the weapons existed in Iraq to the extent that was publicly stated. Questions are also

multiplying as to the quality of the intelligence provided to the White House. Was it simply faulty given that nothing has been found in Iraq or was it influenced by the White House's fixation on the weapons issue? Or were the intelligence agencies telling the White House what it wanted to hear?This week, Sam Nunn, a former senator, urged Congress to investigate whether the argument for war in Iraq was based on distorted intelligence. He raised the possibility that Mr Bush's policy against Saddam had influenced the intelligence that indicated Baghdad had weapons of mass destruction.

This week, the CIA and the other American intelligence agencies have promised to conduct internal reviews of the quality of the material they supplied the administration on what was going on in Iraq. The heat on the White House was only made fiercer by Mr Rumsfeld's admission that nothing may now be found in Iraq to back up those earlier claims, if only because the Iraqis may have got rid of any evidence before the conflict. "It is also possible that they decided that they would destroy them prior to a conflict," the Defence Secretary said. The US military said last night that it had released a suspected Iraqi war criminal by mistake. US Central Command said it was offering a $25,000 (315,000) reward for the capture of Mohammed Jawad An-Neifus, suspected of being involved in the murder of thousands of Iraqi Shia Muslims whose remains were found at a mass grave in Mahawil, southern Iraq, last month.The alleged mobile weapons laboratories

As scepticism grows over the failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, London and Washington are attempting to turn the focus of attention to Iraq's alleged possession of mobile weapons labs.

A joint CIA and Defence Intelligence Agency report released this week claimed that two trucks found in northern Iraq last month were mobile labs used to develop biological weapons. The trucks were fitted with hi-tech laboratory equipment and the report said the discovery represented the "strongest evidence to date that Iraq was hiding a biowarfare programme."

The design of the vehicles made them "an ingeniously simple self-contained bioprocessing system". The report said no other purpose, for example water purification, medical laboratory or vaccine production, would justify such effort and expense.But critics are not convinced. No biological agents were found on the trucks and experts point out that, unlike the trucks described by Colin Powell, the Secretary of State, in a speech to the UN Security Council, they were open sided and would therefore have left a trace easy for weapons inspectors to detect. One former UN inspector said that the trucks would have been a very inefficient way to produce anthrax. More Articles on Weapons Inspections More Articles on the War Against Iraq More Information on Iraq FAIR USE NOTICE: This page contains copyrighted material the use of which has not been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. Global Policy Forum distributes this material without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes. We believe this constitutes a fair use of any such copyrighted material as provided for in 17 U.S.C Â§ 107. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond fair use, you must obtain permission from the copyright owner. (web source4).

The above report is considered to be fake because of the existence of the following cues which are typically characteristics of fake news.

First, it is slanted, biased, imprecise and sloppy. It violates the principle of sufficiency in that its premises do not offer adequate support or proof to prove the raised claims. The accusations raised in it concern the alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq what gives a justification for the war on Iraq. Secondly, it is linked to political issues (i.e., the issue of weapons of mass destruction which the American government considers an appropriate excuse for attacking Iraq). Finally, untrue or false statements are made use of and are repeated for the sake of emphasis; these statements focus on the ideas that Iraq is concealing banned weapons and Saddam is developing them.

The mentioned report consists of three stages which include : headline (the initiating stage), body (the constructing stage) and lead (the maximizing stage):

The initiating stage (headline) is realized by means of certain pragmatic strategies which are as follows: the representative speech act of stating in which the reporter states that WMD is just an appropriate excuse for war and this is clear in *"WMD just a convenient excuse for war".* The second pragmatic strategy is irrelevant appeals to authority which is a kind of fallacious relevant arguments. Here the reporter David Usborne wrongly believes that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and that the war against Iraq was justified. The third pragmatic strategy is violation of manner maxim in which the reporter reiterates that WMD are merely a convenient reason to go to war.

As for the constructing stage, it is achieved by means of the following pragmatic strategies: appeals to tradition and irrelevant appeals to authority which are both kinds of fallacious relevant arguments in which the reporter attempts to convince others of his argument. This patent in

"The Bush administration focused on weapons of mass destruction as the primary justification for toppling Saddam Hussein by force because it was politically convenient, a top- level official at the Pentagon has acknowledged". In the same stage , the silence technique is activated by the maxims of quantity (saying less than is needed) which is utilized by the reporter for the sake of keeping the top level official's identity secret. Moreover, the speech act of informing is made use of in the previous extract wherein the reporter informs the public about the reasons behind the war on Iraq.

The maximizing stage, which is the last stage in the news report, is also pragmatically realized by means of the representative speech act of asserting which is evident in "*For bureaucratic reasons we settled on one issue, weapons of mass destruction, because it was the one reason everyone could agree on*" and "*The trucks were fitted with hi-tech laboratory equipment and the report said the discovery represented the strongest evidence to date that Iraq was hiding a bio warfare programme*". The reporter tries to misrepresent facts by falsely asserting that WMD is the one reason that everyone could agree on as far as the matter is related to the war on Iraq. Another speech act used for the sake of distorting facts and events and to give a justification for the war on Iraq is the representative speech act of claiming which is clear in "*A joint CIA and Defence Intelligence Agency report released this week claimed that two trucks found in northern Iraq last month were mobile labs used to develop biological weapons*". Another pragmatic strategy is that of violating quality wherein the reporter presents information for which he lacks adequate evidence concerning accusing Iraq of hiding a biowarfare programme. Moreover, the maxim of quantity is violated because there is no sufficient amount of information about trucks which are fitted with hi-

tech laboratory equipment and about Iraq hiding a biowarfare programme.

(T2)

Iraq's Quest to Build Nuclear Bomb

In the days before Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War, the vast sprawl of anonymous factory buildings that makes up the Badr General Establishment was a central hub in its efforts to design and build a nuclear bomb.

As Iraq has admitted to the United Nations, it was here, 20 miles south of Baghdad, that the bustling teams of technicians and machinists worked on components for the gas centrifuges and molecular pumps that were intended for Iraq's enrichment cascade for the fissile material for its nuclear bomb. It was here too that Iraq's missile technicians worked on modification and production of the Scud B missiles that they hoped would carry a warhead.Advertisement With Iraq's capitulation to the allied forces, Badr - like the State Enterprise for Heavy Equipment Engineering and dozens of other enterprises run under the auspices of the Ministry for Military Industrialisation - was supposed to be closed down and monitored under the UN ceasefire resolutions designed to dismantle Iraq's ability to retain, design and build weapons of mass destruction. But the scientists and managers from Badr had different orders from Iraqi president Saddam Hussein. What they have been up to goes to the heart of US and UK concern that Saddam has been trying to assemble the expertise and materials to build weapons of mass destruction, for the men from Badr turned up at a factory in Minsk in the former Soviet republic of Belarus.The Iraqi delegation that arrived at the Belstroyimpex headquarters in July 1995 was a high-powered one, travelling under the

aegis of the Badr General Establishment. They carried a shopping list of high-specification machine tools, including diamond cutters, a powder-metal production line and a plasma-spray machine - all potentially components for nuclear weapons and a ballistic-missiles programme. The delegation was careful to cover its tracks, keeping the visit and the deals signed secret from the UN.

Iraq went to greater lengths still to hide these purchases from the UN sanctions regime, smuggling them into Iraq via the Jordanian free port of Aqaba, and trying to hide the equipment once it reached Iraq. The deal was only a small part of an intensive effort by companies and organizations linked to the Iraq's Ministry of Military Industrialization to acquire forbidden technologies and materials from Belarus and over a dozen other countries. Before their forced departure from Iraq, UN inspectors discovered machine tools delivered from Belarus at the Saddam Artillery Plant, where they found Iraqi technicians installing 14 new machines for manufacturing 75-millimetre lenses with a military use. The Iraqi activity in Belarus is the most worrying evidence that Iraq is still pursuing a covert procurement programme. Firm evidence exists that in the decade since the end of the Gulf war Saddam quickly rebuilt his secret procurement networks, casting his net from the UK to the Eastern Europe, South East Asia and as far as Africa."There has been an awful lot of background noise,' said one European diplomat."There is a lot of Iraqi procurement effort going on. Some of it is very inconclusive." One of the best assessments of Iraq's procurement effort has been supplied by former US weapons inspector Scott Ritter. Ritter has noted the way in which Iraq set up a series of front companies in Jordon, Syria, and other countries that acted as official buyers of banned weapons and systems, which later found their way to Iraq. "We [UN weapons inspectors] were

following information that held that Iraq was working very closely with the government of Syria to use Syrian procurement networks in place with Belarus, with Ukraine, with Russia. The Syrians would acquire military technology, military equipment, military hardware, in contracts between these nations and Syria, and then Syria would transfer this material to Iraq in a covert fashion. And the method of payment was Iraqi oil". Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control in Washington, and Kelly Motz said "what the research showed is that Saddam's procurement network is alive and well and has been working steadily despite the sanctions. Motz said "we actually found some high-end machine tools that are useful for making nuclear weapons, military goods such as conventional helicopters and aircraft which were clearly embargoed." UN inspectors uncovered further evidence of Iraq's secret procurement efforts-gyroscopes from dismantled Russian inter- continental ballistic missiles that were smuggled into Iraq, then dumped in a river when they were found to be incompatible with their missile systems. What is clear is that despite consistent setbacks over the past eight years, Iraq's secret procurement effort is still active across the globe (web source 5).

The previous report is considered fake because it contains deliberate disinformation such as *"Iraq's quest to construct a nuclear bomb"*, *"vast sprawl of anonymous factory buildings to design and build a nuclear bomb"* and so on, that was spread to shape and direct public opinion to support the war against Iraq. Furthermore, the report is considered fake because it meets the following fake news requirements: (1) it breaches the sufficiency principle because it lacks adequate support or evidence the statements it makes regarding Iraq's ability and willingness to develop nuclear weapons, as well as the few evidence that later turned out to be

false , (2) taking a stance on a contentious issue (i.e., the issue of Iraq's nuclear weapons), (3) inclining to use more sense verbs like (said, noted), and (4) reiterating fictitious declarations, such as *"Iraq is building a nuclear bomb"*.

The structure of the analyzed news report consists of three stages: the initiating stage (headline), the constructing stage (lead), and the maximizing stage (body/ lead development) .

The initiating stage is realized by means of the following strategies: the representative speech act of stating in which the reporter tries to state that Iraq attempts to build a nuclear bomb. The second strategy is irrelevant appeal to tradition in which the reporter intends to convince others of his argument. Here, the reporter tries to convince others that Iraq tries to build nuclear bombs. Moreover, the reporter violates quality maxim since he falsely assumes that Iraq is building nuclear weapons. All these strategies are evident in *"Iraq's Quest to Build Nuclear Bomb"*.

In the constructing stage, the reporter resorts to the following pragmatic strategies to achieve his aim of distorting facts and events concerning Iraq: exaggeration is a method of construction that is used to distort and misinterpret evidence. This technique is activated pragmatically by quantity violation that is present in *"the vast sprawl of anonymous factory buildings".* Another strategy resorted to is the representative speech act of asserting in which the reporter asserts that the Badr general establishment, a large sprawl of anonymous factory buildings, was a central node in its attempts to develop and construct a nuclear bomb . This is patent in *"the vast sprawl of anonymous factory buildings that makes up the Badr General Establishment was a central hub in its efforts to design and build a nuclear bomb".*

The maximizing stage is issued by means of the following pragmatic strategies: The violation of quality maxim (don't say that for which you lack adequate evidence) and the insincere speech act of asserting which is evident in the following excerpts *"Iraq is hiding weapons from the UN sanctions regime", "weapons are smuggled into Iraq via the Jordanian port of Aqaba", "Iraq is intensively seeking to acquire forbidden technologies and materials from Belarus and many other countries", "Iraq is pursuing a covert procurement programme", "Saddam has rebuilt his secret procurement networks since the end of the Gulf war", "Saddam is casting his net from the UK to eastern Europe, south east Asia, and Africa", "Iraq is posing a threat", "Saddam's procurement programme is massive", and "Saddam is building a secret conglomeration of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons factories".* Another strategy is used to lead the reader away from the facts is relying on the fallacy of appeal to authority to assign misrepresentation to someone in a position of authority. This strategy is called irrelevant appeals to authority which is part of fallacious relevant arguments. This is shown in the following statement *"A European diplomat said there has been an awful lot of background noise. There is a lot of Iraqi procurement effort going on".*

(T3)

Cargo ships may contain Iraqi weapons

US and British intelligence are tracking three cargo ships suspected of carrying Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, it was reported today.

The vessels are alleged to have been chartered through an Egyptian shipping firm and collected loads smuggled through either Syria or Jordan to avoid Western naval patrols off the Iraqi coast. Leaving port in

late November - a few days after UN weapons inspectors went back into Iraq - the ships have maintained radio silence, refused to disclose their cargo or destination and are thought to have spent much of their time in the Indian ocean, the Independent reported. But according to the newspaper, the British and US navies were reluctant to board the vessels in case their captains scuttled the ships, causing catastrophic environmental damage. John Eldridge, editor of Jane's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence, said Saddam Hussein would have been "extremely sensible" to hide weapons at sea. "If there were biological or chemical munitions they would be pretty difficult to detect because they would be in sealed containers with a low risk of damage or emissions," he said. "There's no way you could detect what they were without boarding the ship".Western intelligence agencies are already believed to monitoring al-Qaida-linked ships suspected of gun running arms and explosives. Whitehall sources suggested the reports of Iraqi weapons on cargo ships were unfounded. A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said it did not discuss intelligence matters.The International Maritime Organisation told Reuters it was "common practice" for ships to withhold information about the content of a cargo, its destination or to maintain radio silence. "A declaration [of cargo] is only required when a port or destination is known - oil companies, for example, do this kind of thing all the time," a spokesman said.The US secretary of state, Colin Powell, today restated that Washington did not believe weapons inspections could continue "indefinitely" and criticised France for suggesting the inspection regime could be strengthened. "It is not a satisfactory solution to continue inspections indefinitely because certain countries are afraid of upholding their responsibility to impose the will of the international community," he said. Now is the time to support a free press and truth-seeking journalism. With no shareholders or billionaire owner, we are

free from political or commercial influence. We can investigate, challenge and expose those in power, and report without fear or favour. And because we believe everyone deserves access to trustworthy, fact-led news and analysis, we keep Guardian reporting open for all readers, regardless of where they live or what they can afford to pay (web source 5).

The above report is considered to be fake because it includes the following cues which are characteristics of fake news: (1) violating the sufficiency principle in that its premises lack sufficient justification or proof to prove the arguments made in it, (2) preferring meaning-related terms such as reporting verbs (said and reported), and (3) repeating false statements such as *"Iraq is hiding its weapons of mass destruction in the sea using cargo ships".*

The structure of the analyzed news report consists of three stages: the initiating stage (headline), the constructing stage (lead), the maximizing stage (body/ lead development):

The initiating stage is realized by means of certain pragmatic strategies which are as follows: the representative speech act of stating in which the reporter states that cargo ships may contain Iraqi weapons. The second strategy is the irrelevant appeal to tradition which is part of the strategy of fallacious relevant arguments in which the reporter attempts to convince others by saying that Iraqi weapons may be on cargo ships . Another pragmatic strategy is that of violating quality maxim wherein the reporter presents untrue information (here he was spreading false information about cargo ships). All these strategies are patent in *"Cargo ships may contain Iraqi weapons".*

As for the constructing stage, it is achieved by means of the following pragmatic strategies: the representative speech act of reporting in which the reporter confirms that three cargo ships suspected of carrying Iraqi weapons of mass destruction are being followed by US and British intelligence. The second strategy is that of quality violation since the reporter is presenting information for which he lacks adequate evidence. Another strategy is that of self _Interest (which is type of fallacious relevant argument) in which the reporter lacks relevant facts to his arguments. The two strategies are evident in *"U.S and British intelligence are tracking three cargo ships suspected of carrying Iraqi weapons of mass destruction"*.

The maximizing stage is realized by means of the following pragmatic strategies: the first is the violation of quality maxim (spreading unconfirmed information) , the second is the speech act of claiming in order to construct the events in the news report ,and the third strategy is quantity violation (saying more than required) . This can be seen in *"The vessels are alleged to have been chartered through an Egyptian shipping firm and collected loads smuggled through either Syria or Jordan to avoid Western naval patrols off the Iraqi coast"*.

(T4)

"A dictator defies the world. Assad kills at least 85 with chemical weapons"

On April 4th a chemical attack struck the town of Khan Sheikhoun in Idlib, a province in northern Syria controlled by an alliance of rebel groups. At least 85 people, including 20 children, died, according to doctors and a Syrian monitoring group. The World Health Organisation said victims appeared to display symptoms that tally with the use of a

deadly nerve agent such as sarin (as opposed to, say, a less powerful one such as chlorine) .

One boy was filmed suffocating on the ground, his chest heaving and his mouth opening and closing like a fish out of water. Photographs show dead children lined up in rows on the floor or piled in heaps in the back of a vehicle, their clothes ripped from them by rescuers who used hoses to try to wash the chemicals from their bodies. Other images show victims foaming from their mouths or writhing on the ground as they struggle for air. Hours after the attack began, witnesses say, regime warplanes circled back over the area and dropped bombs on a clinic treating survivors.... The Syrian government swiftly denied dropping chemical weapons. Russia, its ally, said a Syrian air strike had hit a rebel-held weapons stockpile, releasing deadly chemicals into the air. Leaders in the West condemned the regime.... When the Syrian government gassed to death more than 1,400 people on the outskirts of Damascus in August 2013 it seemed inevitable that America would respond by launching air strikes against the regime. One week after the attack—the deadliest use of chemical weapons since Saddam Hussein gassed Iraqi Kurds in 1988— John Kerry delivered one of his most bellicose speeches as secretary of state, arguing the case for American military action in Syria. "It matters if the world speaks out...and then nothing happens," Mr Kerry said. the Russians brokered a deal that saw the Syrian regime supposedly dismantle its chemical-weapons programme. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) destroyed about 1,200 tonnes of Syria's chemical stockpile. Barack Obama hailed the deal as a triumph for diplomacy over force. Yet chemical attacks by regime forces continued, experts believe. "Syria has engaged in a calculated campaign of intransigence and obfuscation, of deception, and of defiance," Kenneth

Ward, America's representative to the OPCW, said in July. "We...remain very concerned that [chemical warfare agents]...have been illicitly retained by Syria". With Mr. Assad at the helm, the Syrian regime continued to drop gas on its own people. There would be nothing to stop it. (web source 6).

The above report is considered to be fake because of the existence of the following cues which are typically characteristics of fake news. First, it is slanted, biased, imprecise and sloppy. It violates the principle of sufficiency in that its premises do not offer adequate support or proof to prove the raised claims. Second, there is a clear preference of sense verbs like (said, say, etc.). Third, using more words with a negative semantic load such as (dictator, defies, Syrian government gassed to death, etc.) when describing the Syrian president.

The structure of the analyzed news report consists of three stages: the initiating stage (headline), the constructing stage (lead), the maximizing stage (body/ lead development):

As for the initiating stage, it is realized by means of the following strategies: first, irrelevant appeals to tradition, which is a type of fallacious relevant arguments, is resorted to in an attempt to persuade the audience of the legitimacy of the international coalition to overthrow Bashar Al-Assad; second, the representative speech act of stating is made use of wherein the reporter falsely states that the world is defied by a tyrant. Moreover, the representative speech act of asserting is used to falsely assert that Assad uses chemical agents to destroy at least 85 people. Then, the violation of manner maxim (be brief) in which the reporter clearly that Assad uses chemical agents to destroy at least 85 people. All these strategies are patent in *"A dictator defies the world.*

Assad kills at least 85 with chemical weapons". In addition, the pragma-rhetorical trope of allusion is evident in the extract in which the reporter uses the word "dictator" as a reference to Bashar Al-Assad. The argumentative appeal of logos is also patent. Here, the use of numbers is intended as an evidence to persuade the audience of the raised false argument. This is clear in *"Assad kills at least 85 with chemical weapons"* .

With regard to the constructing stage, it is realized by means of the following pragmatic strategies: the insincere representative speech act of asserting in which the reporter asserts that Al-Assad killed more than 85 people including 20 children; the second strategy is that of quality violation (saying something for which the reporter lacks adequate evidence). The two strategies are obvious in *"At least 85 people, including 20 children, died, according to doctors and a Syrian monitoring group"*. Besides, the argumentative appeal of logos supported by evidence is patent in the previous statement. The evidence employed here is numbers and witness *"according to doctors and a Syrian monitoring group"*.

With reference to the maximizing stage, it is issued by means of certain pragmatic strategies represented by: the violation of quality maxim in which the reporter says something that lacks adequate evidence. Second, the insincere speech act of asserting in which the reporter asserts that there are witnesses saying that regime warplanes dropped bombs on a clinic treating survivors. Third , the violation of manner maxim (be brief) and finally the violation of quantity maxim (saying more than required). All these strategies are clear in *"witnesses say, regime warplanes circled back over the area and dropped bombs on a clinic treating survivors...."*and *"The Syrian government gassed to*

death more than 1,400 people on the outskirts of Damascus in August 2013".

(T5)

Bashar al-Assad still has 'hundreds of tones' of chemicals stockpiled, former Syrian weapons research chief claims

President Bashar al-Assad continues to retain hundreds of tones of his country's chemical stockpile after deceiving United Nations inspectors sent in to dismantle it, Syria's former chemical weapons research chief told the Telegraph in an exclusive interview.

Assad insisted once again this week that the regime was not in possession of any chemical weapons. However, there has long been suspicion – which has intensified after last week's attack on the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun that left 86 dead – that Assad held some back. "They [the regime] admitted only to 1,300 tones, but we knew in reality they had nearly double that," said Brig Gen Sakat, who was one of the most senior figures in the country's chemical programme. "They had at least 2,000 tones. At least." Brig Gen Sakat believes the undisclosed stockpile includes several hundred tones of sarin and so-called precursor chemicals used to make the nerve agent, as well as aerial bombs that could be filled with chemical agents and chemical warheads for Scud missiles. Sakat, a 53-year-old general who maintained contact with officials inside Syria after his defection in March 2013, said.. tones of the chemicals were transported to the heavily fortified mountains outside Homs and to the coastal city of Jableh, near Tartus.. . Evidence has mounted that Damascus was continuing to use chemicals..in attacks on civilians. Brig Gen Sakat understands, however, that the regime has not been manufacturing more nerve agents since 2014. "They don't need any

more, they have all they need already," he told The Telegraph, speaking from a country in Europe he asked not to be disclosed to ensure his safety. Brig Gen Sakat believes the regime has also experimented with mixing different gases – like sarin and tear gas – in order to create a mélange of symptoms that would make the cause hard to identify.. . Brig Gen Sakat said it was not an accident the town was chosen for such an attack and that the regime's use of chemicals is "always strategic". In the months before he defected, Brig Gen Sakat said he was personally ordered by his commander, Gen Ali Hassan Amar, to carry out three chemical attacks. They took place in October 2012 on the southern town of Sheikh Maskeen, in December 2012 on nearby Harak, and in January 2013 on Busra al-Harir – all places where demonstrations had been taking place against Assad (web source 7).

The above report is considered fake because of the presence of the following criteria of fake news: (1) it is slanted and biased, (2) it violates the principle of sufficiency in that its premises do not offer adequate support or proof to prove an argument, (3) it takes a stance on a highly controversial issue,(4) it is linked to a political issue.

The structure of the analyzed news report consists of three stages: the initiating stage (headline), the constructing stage (lead), the maximizing stage (body/ lead development):

In the initiating stage, the reporter resorts to the following strategies to achieve his aim of misrepresenting facts and events: the speech act of accusing wherein the reporter accuses Bashar Al-Assad of possessing thousands of tons of chemical weapons; the violation of quality maxim in which the reporter mentioned something for which he does not have sufficient proof; the pragma rhetorical trope of overstatement wherein the

reporter exaggerates the Syrian government's suspected threats and its possession of hundreds of tons of chemical weapons   The three mentioned strategies are evident in *"Bashar al-Assad still has 'hundreds of tones' of chemicals stockpiled"*.

As for constructing stage, it is realized by means of the following strategies: the first strategy is the representative speech act of asserting wherein the reporter asserts that thousands of tones are still kept by President Bashar Al-Assad; the second strategy is the violation of quality maxim (i.e., saying something that lacks adequate evidence) ; the third strategy is the speech act of asserting in which the reporter asserts that after deceiving UN investigators, President Bashar Al-Assad attempts to maintain hundreds of tons of it. This is clear in *"President Bashar al-Assad continues to retain hundreds of tones of his country's chemical stockpile after deceiving United Nations inspectors sent in to dismantle it"*.

In the maximizing stage, the reporter makes use of the following strategies: first, the directive speech act of warning is exploited to warn the public of the dangers of Assad's possession of chemical weapons; second, the violation of quality maxim through saying something that lacks adequate evidence; third, the representative speech act of stating through which the reporter makes the statement that while Assad denies having chemical weapons, he does, in fact, possess them. The violation of quantity maxim (saying more than required) and appeal to pathos

. This is evident in *"Assad insisted once again this week that the regime was not in possession of any chemical weapons.*

3.2.2.1.2 American Misrepresented News Reports

T (6)

White House Lists Iraq Steps to Build Banned Weapons

Seeking to buttress the case for military action against Iraq, the Bush administration published a brief paper yesterday outlining what it says are efforts by Saddam Hussein to develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

The administration insists that despite Iraq's efforts to hide its activities to develop or acquire nonconventional weapons, Baghdad has shown a clear pattern of violating its commitments in all areas....George J. Tenet, the director of central intelligence, has been adamant that tubes recently intercepted en route to Iraq were intended for use in a nuclear program, officials said. They also said it was the intelligence agencies' unanimous view that the type of tubes that Iraq has been seeking are used to make such centrifuges.. Mr. Hussein's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction is the centerpiece of the argument for planning a military campaign to topple him. .... There are tubes and then there are tubes.. The best technical experts and nuclear scientists at laboratories like Oak Ridge supported the C.I.A. assessment (web source 8).

The report above can be considered fake because it meets the following criteria of fake news. Firstly , it is slanted and biased; imprecise and sloppy. Secondly, it violates the sufficiency principle in which it does not provide enough evidence to support the claims it arouses. Thirdly, it takes a stance on a highly controversial issue. Finally, it is linked to a political issue.

As for the structure of the news report, it consists of three stages: the initiating stage (the headline), the constructing stage (the lead), and the maximizing stage (body/ lead development):

The initiating stage is realized by means of certain pragmatic strategies which are represented by the representative speech act of stating wherein the reporter states that Iraq had weapons and White House enumerates Iraq steps in order to build banned weapons; irrelevant appeals to authority and tradition in which the reporter attempts to convince others that Iraq had weapons. The two strategies are evident in *"White House Lists Iraq Steps To Build Banned Weapons"*.

The constructing stage is achieved by means of the following strategies: first, the representative speech acts of asserting and insisting wherein the reporter asserts and at the same time insists that Iraq possesses banned weapons; second, irrelevant appeals to authority which is a type of fallacious relevant arguments is also made use of; third, irrelevant appeals to tradition in which the reporter attempts to convince others that Iraq has banned weapons when the reporter refers to "Bush administration" in his report. All the strategies are patent in *"the Bush administration published a brief paper yesterday outlining what it says are efforts by Saddam Hussein to develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons"*.

As for the maximizing stage, it is realized by means of the speech act of stating in which the reporter states that George Tenet has stated unequivocally in which the tubes detected en route to Iraq were designed for use in a nuclear program; the insincere speech act of confirming which is intended by the reporter to confirm Iraq's possession of WMDs. The two strategies are evident in *"George J. Tenet, the director of central*

intelligence, has been adamant that tubes recently intercepted en route to Iraq were intended for use in a nuclear program, officials said".

(T 7)

Prohibited Weapons; Illicit Arms Kept Till Eve of War, An Iraqi Scientist Is Said to Assert

A scientist who claims to have worked in Iraq's chemical weapons program for more than a decade has told an American military team that Iraq destroyed chemical and biological warfare equipment only days before the war began, members of the team said. They said the scientist led Americans to a supply of material that proved to be the building blocks of illegal weapons, which he claimed to have buried as evidence of Iraq's illicit weapons programs.

The scientist told American weapons experts that Iraq had secretly sent unconventional weapons and technology to Syria, starting in the mid-1990, and that more recently Iraq was cooperating with Al-Qaeda, the military officials said. The American said the scientist told them that president Saddam Hussein's government ..had recently focused its efforts instead on research and development projects that are virtually impervious to detection by international inspectors, and even American forces on the ground combing through Iraq's giant weapons plants.. The officials' account of the scientist's assertion and the discovery of the buried material supports the Bush administration's charges that Iraq continued to develop those weapons and lied to the United Nations about it. Finding and destroying illegal weapons was a major justification for the war.. Military officials said the scientist told them that four days before president Bush gave Mr. Hussein 48 hours to leave Iraq or face war, Iraqi officials set fire to a warehouse where biological weapons

research and development was conducted. The officials quoted him as saying he had watched several months before the outbreak of the war as Iraqis buried chemical precursors and other sensitive material to conceal and preserve them for future use. The officials said the scientist showed them documents, samples, and other evidence of the program that he claimed to have stolen to prove that the program existed.. The scientist has told MET Alpha members that because Iraq's unconventional weapons programs were highly compartmented, he only had firsthand information about the chemical weapons sector in which he worked, team members said. But he has given the Americans information about other unconventional weapons activities, they said, as well as information about Iraqi weapons cooperation with Syria, and with terrorist groups, including Al-Qaeda. It was not clear how the scientist knew of such a connection (web source 8).

The above report is considered to be fake because of the existence of the following cues which are typically characteristics of fake news. First, it is slanted, biased, imprecise and sloppy. Second, it violates the principle of sufficiency in that its premises do not offer adequate support or proof to prove the raised claims. Third, it takes a stance on a highly controversial issue. Finally, it includes repetition of the false declaration that Iraq does possess illegal weapons.

The mentioned report consists of three stages which include : headline (the initiating stage), body (the constructing stage) and lead (the maximizing stage).

The initiating stage is realized by means of the following strategies: the violation of quality maxim (issuing information which is not adequate) and quantity maxim (saying less than is required to keep the

scientist's identity hidden for the sake of misrepresentation); the speech act of informing wherein the reporter tries to inform the readers of what the Iraq scientist has asserted. The above strategies are patent in *"An Iraqi Scientist Is Said to Assert"*.

As for constructing stage, it is advanced by using the following strategies: firstly, violations of both quality and quantity (represented by partial omission to hide the identity of the Iraqi scientist); secondly, representative speech acts of stating and claiming. Secondly, violation of manner maxim in which the reporter reiterates that Iraq has surreptitiously supplied unconventional weapons and technology to Syria, the scientist told American weapons experts. This is patent in" The scientist told American weapons experts that Iraq had secretly sent unconventional weapons and technology to Syria".

These strategies are evident in *"A scientist who claims to have worked in Iraq's chemical weapons program for more than a decade has told an American military team that.."*.

As for the maximizing stage, it is advanced through using the representative speech act of stating in which the reporter states that Iraq managed to build those weapons while lying on the United Nations and the violation of quality maxim (don't say that for which you lack adequate evidence) . These are apparent in *"Iraq continued to develop those weapons and lied to the United Nations about it"*.

(T8)

Threats And Responses: The Iraqis; U.S. Says Hussein Intensifies Quest For A Bomb Parts

More than a decade after Saddam Hussein agreed to give up weapons of mass destruction, Iraq has stepped up its quest for nuclear weapons and has embarked on a worldwide hunt for materials to make an atomic bomb, Bush administration officials said today.

In the last 14 months, Iraq has sought to buy thousands of specially designed aluminum tubes, which American officials believe were intended as components of centrifuges to enrich uranium..The attempted purchases are not the only signs of a renewed Iraqi interest in acquiring nuclear arms. President Hussein has met repeatedly in recent months with Iraq's top nuclear scientists and, according to American intelligence, praised their efforts as part of his campaign against the west. Iraqi defectors who once worked for the nuclear weapons establishment have told American officials that acquiring nuclear arms is again a top Iraqi priority. American intelligence agencies are also monitoring construction at nuclear sites..An Iraqi defector said Mr Hussein had also heightened his efforts to develop new types of chemical weapons.."The jewel in the crown is nuclear," a senior administration official said. "The closer he gets to a nuclear capability, the more credible is his threat to use chemical or biological weapons. Nuclear weapons are his hole card." Iraq's nuclear ambitions have a long history. Iraq first sought to obtain plutonium for a nuclear bomb by purchasing a nuclear reactor from France, among other steps. Bush administration officials say the quest for thousands of high-strength aluminum tubes is one of several signs that Mr. Hussein is seeking to revamp and accelerate Iraq's nuclear weapons

program. In addition to the special aluminum tubes, a senior administration official said Iraq had made efforts to purchase other equipment, epoxy and resins that could be used for centrifuges..Chemical weapons could be a major worry on the battlefield if the United States mounts an invasion.. An Iraqi who said he was involved in the chemical weapons program before he defected two years ago said that Mr. Hussein had never stopped producing VX and other chemical agents, even when international inspectors were in Iraq. Speaking on the condition that neither he nor the country in which he was interviewed be identified, Ahmed Al-Shemri, his pseudonym, said Iraq had continued developing, producing and storing chemical agents at many mobile and fixed secret sites throughout the country, many of them underground. "All of Iraq is one large storage facility," said Mr. Shemri. Mr. Shemri said Iraq had produced 5 tons of stable VX in liquid from between 1994 and 1998, before inspectors were forced to leave Iraq. Some of this agent, he said, was made in secret labs in the northern city of Mosul and in the southern city of Basra, which Unscom inspectors confirmed they had rarely visited because of their long distance from Baghdad. He said Iraq had the ability to make at least 50 tons of liquid nerve agents, which he said was to be loaded into two kinds of bombs and dropped from planes (web source 8).

The majority of the characteristics of fake news are manifested in the previously mentioned report, indicating that it is fake. The following are examples of these criteria: (1) it is slanted, biased, imprecise and sloppy, (2) It violates the principle of sufficiency in that its premises do not offer adequate support or proof to prove the raised claim, (3) Taking a biased stance on a highly controversial issue, and (4) repeating certain false declarations (i.e., Iraq's quest for a bomb-part).

The aforementioned report consists of three stages which include : headline (the initiating stage), body (the constructing stage) and lead (the maximizing stage):

The Initiating stage is realized by means of certain strategies including the representative speech act of stating in which the reporter falsely states that Hussein is searching for bomb parts; irrelevant appeals to authority which is a type of fallacious relevant arguments in which the reporter tries to make the audience believe something wrong by resorting to authority (U.S). The two strategies are evident in the following extract *"U.S. says Hussein intensifies quest for a-bomb parts"*.

As for the constructing stage, it is issued by means of the following strategies: representative speech act of asserting in which the reporter asserts that Iraq has intensified its quest for nuclear weapons; irrelevant appeal to authority wherein the reporter refers to "Bush administration" as a kind of authority to persuade the audience believe which is either false or inadequate; violation of quality maxim (don't say what you believe to be false). All these strategies are evident in *"Iraq has stepped up its quest for nuclear weapons and has embarked on a worldwide hunt for materials to make an atomic bomb"*.

In the maximizing stage, the following strategies are exploited to realize misrepresentation. Firstly, the representative speech act of claiming in which the reporter claims that Iraq has attempted to buy thousands of specially made aluminum tubes as part of his anti-western campaign. This is apparent in Miller and Gordon's false claims *"Iraq has sought to buy thousands of specially designed aluminum tubes which were intended as components of centrifuges to enrich uranium and which are part of his campaign against the west"* . Secondly, the violation of

quality maxim (don't say that for which you lack adequate evidence) which is evident in *"Iraq's nuclear ambitions have a long history. Iraq first sought to obtain plutonium for a nuclear bomb by purchasing a nuclear reactor from France, among other steps"*.

T (9)

Bashar al-Assad just gassed his own people, then bombed the clinic treating victims

A suspected poison gas attack by the Syrian regime on the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun has killed at least 74 people — including 16 women and 23 children — and wounded over 350.

Videos and photos taken by activists and medics on the scene showed victims choking and fainting, some with foam coming out of their mouths. These videos and photos have not been independently verified. A few hours later, Syrian warplanes launched another airstrike on one of the medical clinics where victims of the first attack were being treated, the New York Times reports. Bashar al-Assad gassed his own people, then bombed those desperately trying to save the lives of those suffering and dying from the chemicals.. European Union diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini said the Assad regime bears "primary responsibility" for the attack.. The White House condemned the attack as "heinous" and "reprehensible" and blamed the Obama administration for failing to be tougher on Assad. The former president failed to use force after Assad violated Obama's self-declared "red line" and mounted a chemical attack near Damascus that killed roughly 1,000 people in 2013.. . The Syrian regime flatly denies accusations that it was involved in today's chemical weapons attack. In an interview with the BBC, Syrian member of parliament Fares Shehabi called the accusations "nonsense" and "fake

news." He insisted that the Syrian government did not have chemical weapons and had no reason to use them even if they did, and suggested instead that perhaps a chemical weapons depot controlled by the al-Qaeda militants in the area may have exploded. "I clearly deny that neither the Syrian army nor the Russian army used any chemical weapons in Syria. Of course I deny," said Shehabi. "And this is proven by the UN. There was a committee by the UN that double-checked on this and clarified that we don't have any chemical weapons". "We are not going to take any of these allegations seriously. We will laugh at it," he added.

Take the Syrian denials with a shaker of salt, for a simple reason: This isn't the first time the regime has been accused of using chemical weapons on civilians, or of deliberately bombing hospitals and medical clinics (web source 9).

The above report is considered fake because of the presence of the following criteria of fake news: (1) it is slanted and biased, (2) it violates the principle of sufficiency in that its premises do not offer adequate support or proof to prove an argument, (3) it takes a stance on a highly controversial issue,(4) it is linked to a political issue, (5) repetition of the false declaration that Assad is the one to blame for gassing civilians in Khan Sheikhoun.

The structure of the analyzed news report consists of three stages: the initiating stage (headline), the constructing stage (lead), the maximizing stage (body/ lead development):

The initiating stage is realized by means of the following strategies :

First, violation of quality maxim (don't say that for which you lack an adequate evidence) Second, the insincere speech acts of asserting in which the reporter asserts that Bashar al-Assad simply gassed his own people before bombing the clinic that was treating the survivors. Third, violation of manner maxim in which the reporter repeats that Bashar al-Assad just gassed his own people . These strategies are patent in *" Bashar al-Assad just gassed his own people, then bombed the clinic treating victims."*

The constructing stage is issued by means of the following strategies: Firstly, the violation of quality maxim and representative speech acts of declaring in which the reporter falsely declares that the chemical attack has killed more than 74 civilians. Secondly, argumentative appeals to logos and pathos in which the reporter used number in order to refer to logos and he mentions that he killed at least 74 people — including 16 women and 23 children (23 children) referring to sympathy (appeal to pathos). All these strategies are clear in "*A suspected poison gas attack by the Syrian regime on the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun has killed at least 74 people — including 16 women and 23 children* ".

The maximizing stage is understood by means of the following strategies: Firstly, Irrelevant appeals to authority which is type of fallacious relevant arguments in which the reporter is intended to steer the audience away from the truth . This is evident in "European Union diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini said the Assad regime bears 'primary responsibility' for the attack". Secondly, representative speech acts of asserting in which the reporter asserts that Bashar al-Assad attacked his own people, then bombed those urgently attempting to save those suffering and dying as a result of the chemicals. This is obviously in

"Bashar al-Assad gassed his own people, then bombed those desperately trying to save the lives of those suffering and dying from the chemicals".

T(10)

The Syrian Regime has Used Chemical Weapons Before

Nearly 1,500 civilians were killed in chemical weapons attacks in Syria between the onset of the civil war and 2015, according to a March 2016 report by the Syrian American Medical Society. The report documented 161 chemical attacks in Syria, details of which were gathered from doctors operating on the ground in the areas that bore the brunt of chemical warfare. In addition to the fatalities, the report found that the chemical weapons wounded another 14,581 people. This most recent attack in Khan Sheikhoun is the deadliest chemical attack in Syria since sarin gas killed hundreds — maybe even as many as 1,000 — of civilians in eastern Ghouta, near the capital of Damascus, in August 2013. Western countries blamed the Syrian government for the attack; the Syrian government blamed the rebels... Attacks on medical facilities have also been a central feature in the war in Syria. There were 382 such strikes between March 2011, when the Syrian civil war began, and June 2016, according to data collected by Physicians for Human Rights. The vast, vast majority of those attacks — 90 percent, to be exact — were conducted by Syrian government forces or by Russian forces fighting on behalf of Assad. These forces have also killed more than 700 medical personnel in Syria, according to the group's statistics. A UN independent inquiry commission on Syria stated in a September 2016 report that "[t]he pattern of attacks [by the Syrian regime], and in particular the repeated bombardments, strongly suggests that there has been deliberate

and systematic targeting of hospitals and other medical facilities during this reporting period ".

In other words, this latest chemical attack, and the follow-up attack on the medical clinic treating victims, is a gruesome and unspeakable atrocity — but it's nothing new. It's merely a common feature in one of the most brutal wars the 21st century has seen, one that shows no signs of ending anytime soon (web source 9).

The above-mentioned item meets the majority of the criteria for fake news, which is why it is classified as such. These criteria are the following: (1) It violates the principle of sufficiency in that its premises do not offer adequate support or proof to prove the raised claims, (2) it is linked to political issues,(3) taking a stance on a highly controversial issue.

The mentioned report consists of three stages which include: headline (the initiating stage), body (the constructing stage) and lead (the maximizing stage:

The initiating stage is realized by means of the following strategies: representative speech acts of stating in which the reporter states that the Syrian regime has used chemical weapons many times before Khan Sheikhoun's attack. Secondly, irrelevant appeals to tradition and Self - Interest which both types of fallacious relevant arguments. Here the reporter attempts to convince others by saying that the Syrian regime has used chemical weapons many times before Khan Sheikhoun's attack and the reporter lacks relevant facts to support his reporter.

This is clear in "the Syrian regime has used chemical weapons before".

As for the constructing stage, it is issued by means of the following strategies: Firstly, Irrelevant appeal to authority in which the reporter represents "the Syrian American Medical Society" for authority, as the American government has accused them. Secondly, argumentative appeals to logos (appeal to evidence) where numbers are used as proof to persuade the audience of the reporter's accusations regarding the Syrian regime's responsibility for the chemical strikes in Syria. This is clear in " Nearly 1,500 civilians were killed in chemical weapons attacks ".

In the maximizing stage, it is realized by means of the following strategies: violation of quality maxim (don't say that for which you lack adequate evidence) and representative speech acts of accusing in which the reporter accused the Syrian regime, as well as Russian forces fighting on Assad's side, are directly blamed for the majority of the chemical strikes in Syria, according to the correspondent. This is evident in "The vast, vast majority of those attacks- 90 percent, to be exact- were conducted by Syrian government forces or by Russian forces fighting on behalf of Assad".

4.3 Statistical Analysis

The aim of this section is to quantitatively support the pragmatic analysis and verify or reject the hypotheses of the study. The results of the statistical analysis is introduced in tables which are displayed in two separate groups: those concerned with the British news reports with misrepresentation and those concerned with the American news reports with misrepresentation. The equation followed for the analysis is the following .

$$\textbf{Percentage } \textbf{(100 \%)} = \frac{\mathit{\Sigma f}}{\mathit{n}} \times \textbf{100}\%$$

Where:

Σ = represents the sum of cases, f = represent the actual frequency

n = number of all cases

4.3.1 British News Reports with misrepresentation

Table (1): The overall Frequencies and Percentages of the Pragmatic Strategies of Misrepresentation in British News Reports

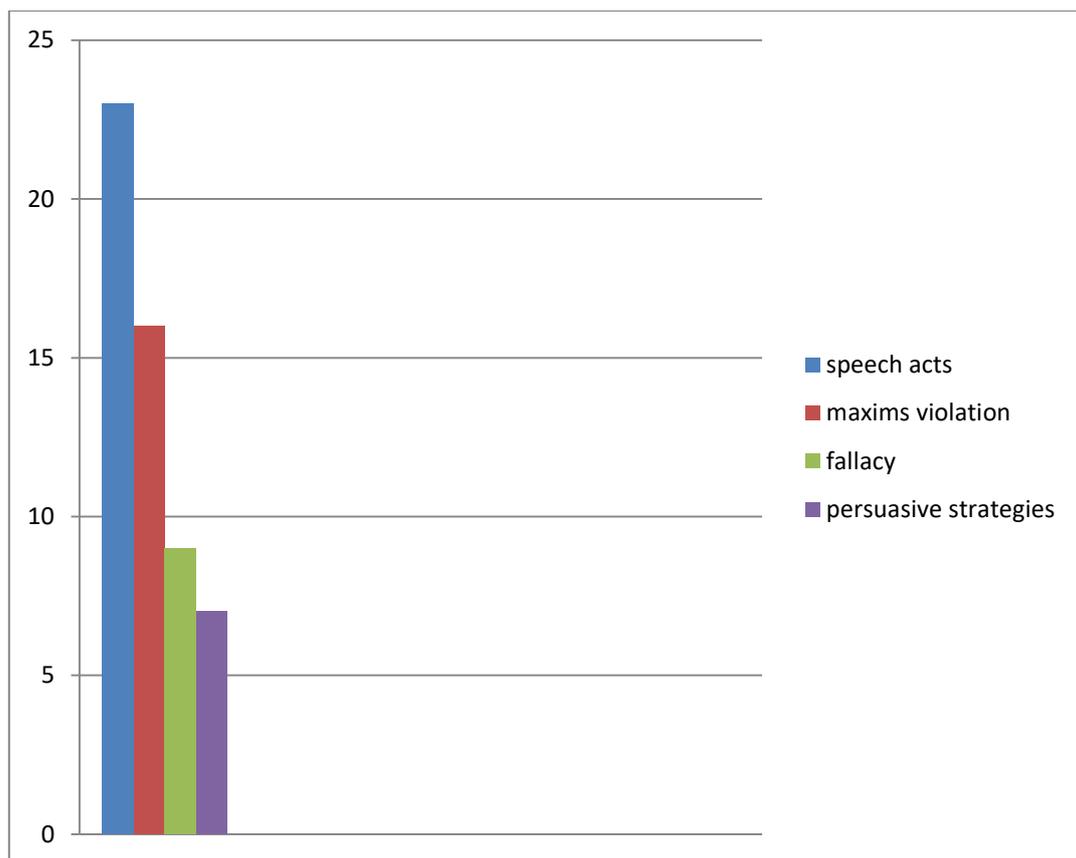| Pragmatic strategy	Frequency	Percentage
Speech Acts	23	41.8
Maxims non-observance	16	29.1
Fallacies	9	16.3
Persuasive strategies	7	12.7
Total	55	99.9

Figure (3) : Rates of the Pragmatics strategies of Misrepresentation in British new reports

Figure (3) and Table (1) above explain the pragmatic strategies resorted to by British news reporters to misrepresent facts and events in their news reports. The table shows that the strategy of speech acts exceeds the other strategies with the percentage (41.8%). The other strategy with high prevalence is that of maxim non-observance which scores (29.1%). As for fallacies and persuasive strategies, they equivalently score (16.3%).

Table (2): The Frequencies and Percentages of Speech Acts Used in British News Reports for the sake of misrepresentation

| Speech Acts		Frequency	percentages
Representatives	Stating	8	33.3
	Asserting	7	29.1
	Insisting	0	0
	Accusing	4	16.7
	Confirming	1	4.2
Directives	Requesting	0	0
	Warning	2	8.3
	Forbidding	0	0
	Excusing	0	0
Commissives	Promising	0	0
	Threatening	0	0
	Denying	0	0
	Vowing	0	0
Expressives	Apologizing	0	0
	Regretting	0	0
	Praising	0	0
	Deploring	0	0
Declaration	Acquitting	0	0
	Declaring	1	4.2
	Disqualifying	1	4.2
Total		24	100
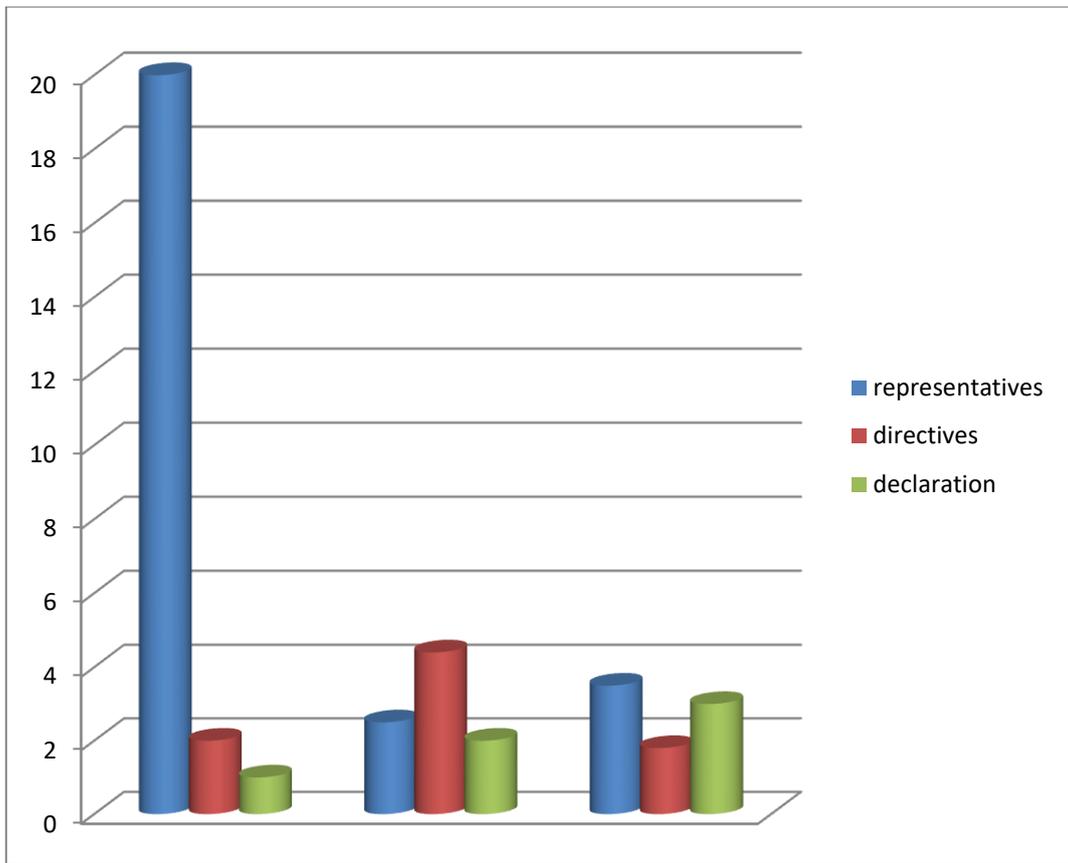
Figure (4) : Rates of Speech Acts in British News Reports for the sake of misrepresentation

Table (2) and Figure (4) above manifests that the category of representative speech acts with its sub-acts are used more than the other categories of speech acts. This is obvious in the percentages these sub-acts score which are as follows: stating (33.3%), asserting (29.1%), accusing (16.7%), and confirming (4.2%). The excessive use of representative speech acts proves that reporters, in one way or another, try to reflect their beliefs and opinions in what they report. The other category of speech acts which scores the second high percentage is that of directives, represented by the speech act of warning which scores (8.3%). The exploitation of this speech act is intended to arouse fear of the public of what is going on even when it is false.

Table (3): The Frequencies and Percentages of Maxims non- observance in British News Reports for the sake of misrepresentation

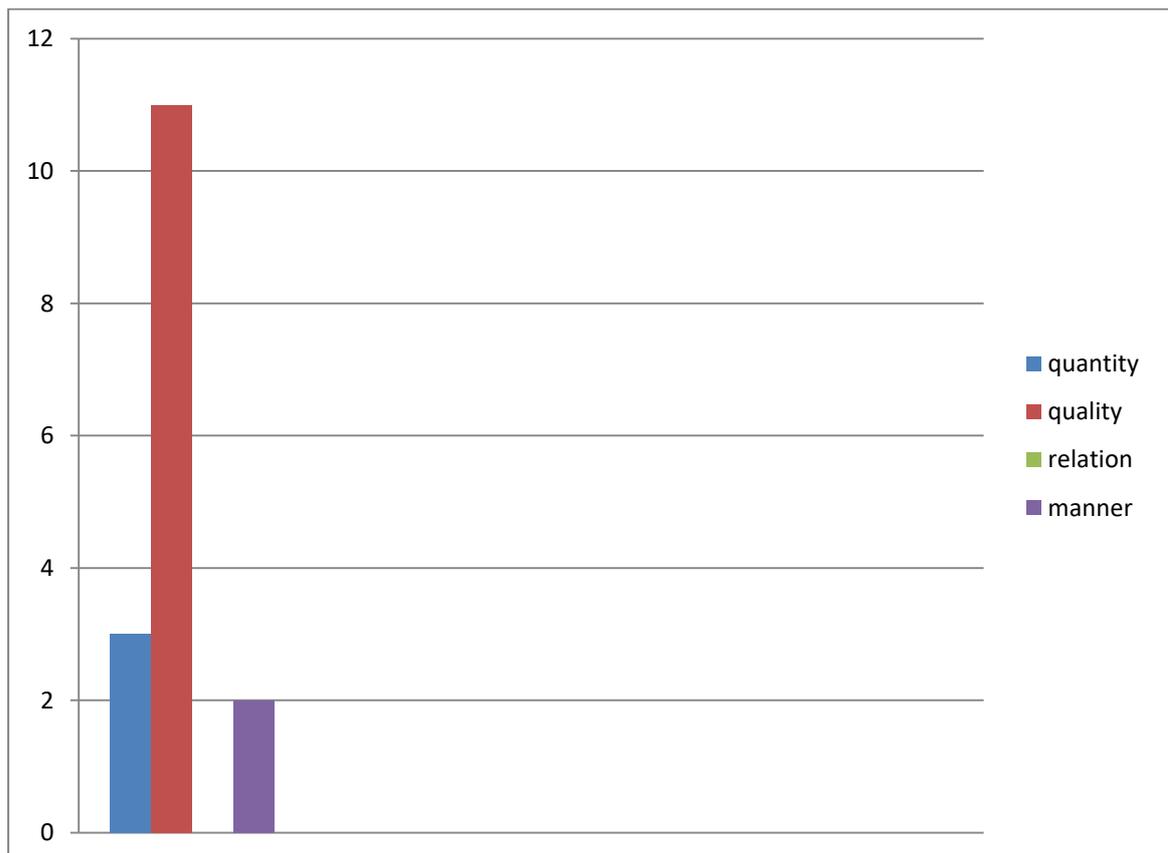| Maxims violation	Frequency	Percentage
Quantity	3	18.8
Quality	11	68.7
Relation	0	0
Manner	2	12.5
Total	16	100

Figure (5) : Rates of Maxim non-observance in British News Reports for the sake of misrepresentation

Table (3) and Figure (5) above indicate that the non- observance of quality maxim has prevalence over other maxims with the percentage (18.7%). This indicates that British news reporters report false events or events for which they lack adequate evidence. Then, the violation of quantity maxim is also highly noticeable with the percentage (18.8%) what gives the indication that British news reporters always give more or less information than is required and this is, in fact, one of the cues to distorted news.

Table (4): The Frequencies and Percentages of Fallacies in British News Reports For the sake of Misrepresentation

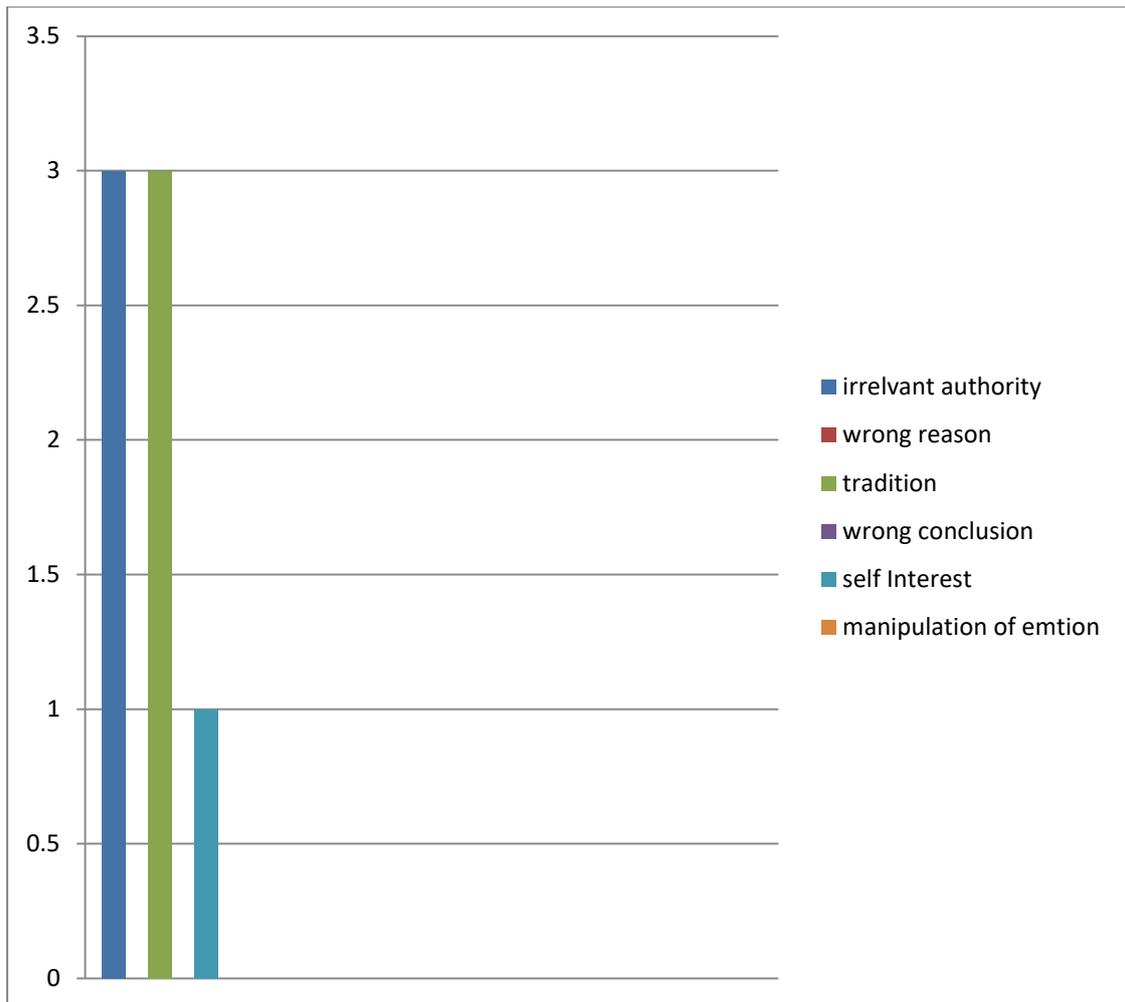| Fallacies	Frequency	Percentage
Irrelevant authority	3	33.3
Wrong reason	0	0
Tradition	3	33.3
Wrong conclusion	0	0
Self Interest	1	11.1
Manipulation of emotion	2	22.2
Total	9	99.9

Figure (6) : : Rates of Fallacies in British News Reports For the Sake of Misrepresentation

Table (4) and figure (6) above indicate that the fallacies of irrelevant appeal to authority and tradition equally score the highest percentage among the other fallacies, that is (33.3%). Both are widely used by the reporters to convince the audience of the fake news they are reporting. The other fallacy which scores a high percentage (22%) is that of manipulation of emotion. Through the use of this strategy, British reporters try to affect the feelings of the people and change their minds.

Table (5): The Frequencies and Percentages of Persuasive Strategies in British News Reports For the Sake of Misrepresentation

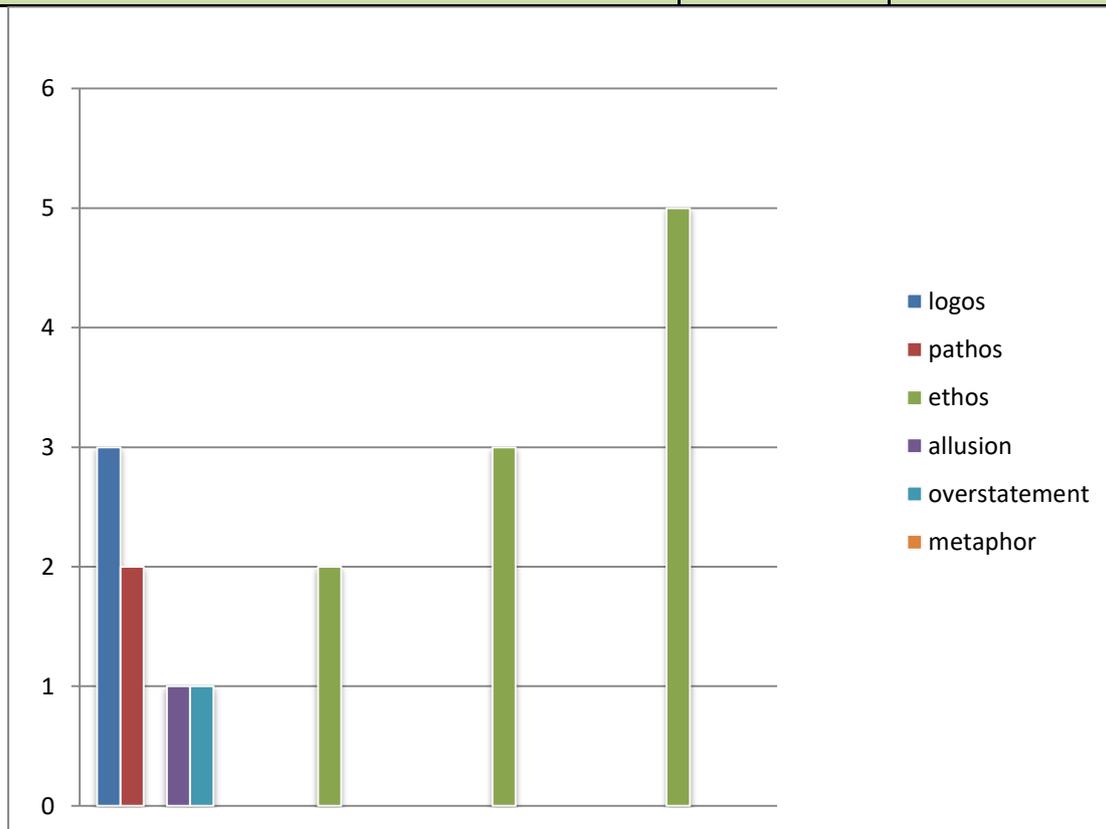| Persuasive strategies		Frequency	Percentage
Argumentative Appeals	Logos	3	42.9
	Pathos	2	28.6
	Ethos	0	0
Tropes	Allusion	1	14.2
	Overstatement	1	14.2
	Metaphor	0	0
Total		7	100

Figure (7) : Rates of Persuasive Strategies in British News Reports For the Sake of Misrepresentation

Table (5) and Figure (7) show that the use of the argumentative appeal of logos dominates over pathos. The reporters always attempt to resort to numbers as a kind of evidence to prove what they want to report and convince the public of what they report . The argumentative appeal of pathos scores a high percentage too, that is (28.6%). The reporters resort to sympathy and fear to arouse the feelings of the public and change their minds. As for pragma-rhetorical tropes, overstatement scores the highest percentage (14.2%). This highlights the fact that British news reporters exaggerate to misrepresent news reports.

4.3.2 American Misrepresented News Reports

Table (6): The overall Frequencies and Percentages of the Pragmatic Strategies of Misrepresentation in American News Reports

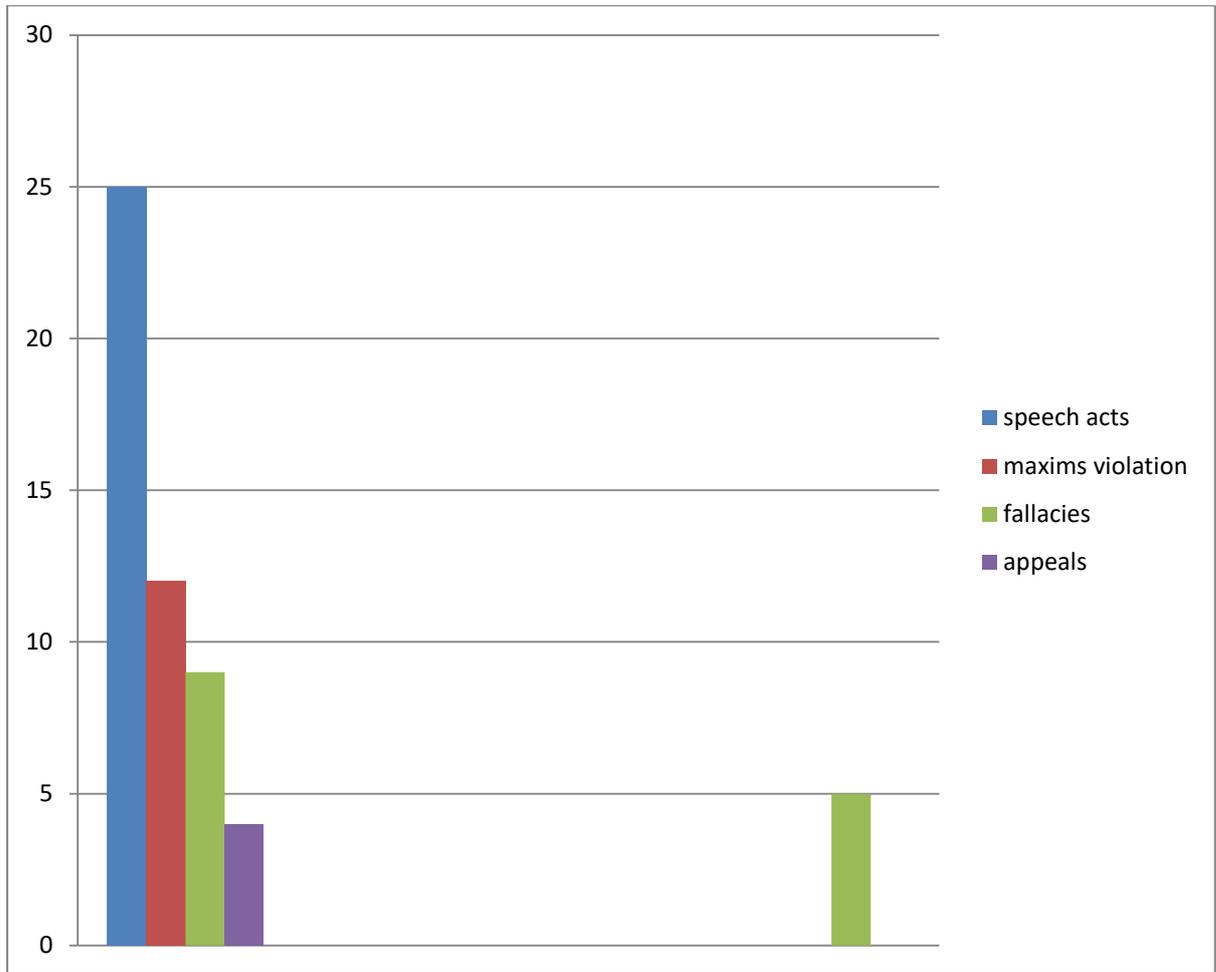| Pragmatic strategy	Frequency	Percentage
Speech Acts	25	50
Maxims violation	12	24
Fallacies	9	18
Persuasive strategies	4	8
Total	50	100

Figure (8) :Rates of the Pragmatic strategies in American News Reports For the Sake of Misrepresentation

Table (6) and Figure (8) clarify that among the pragmatic strategies used in the process of misrepresenting news reports, the percentage of the strategy of speech acts surpasses. This does not mean that the other strategies are not employed. On the contrary, they are exploited but with a less percentages.

Table (7): The Frequencies and Percentages of Speech Acts Used in American News Reports For the Sake of Misrepresentation

| Speech Acts		Frequency	Percentages
Representatives	Stating	7	28
	Asserting	4	16
	Accusing	4	16
	Insisting	1	4
	Confirming	1	4
	Claiming	2	8
Commissives	Denying	0	0
	Threating	0	0
	Vowing	0	0
	promising	0	0
Declaration	Declaring	3	12
	Disqualifying	0	0
	Acquitting	0	0
Directives	Requesting	0	0
	Warning	3	12
	Forbidding	0	0
	Excusing	0	0
Expressives	Praising	0	0
	Regretting	0	0
	apologizing	0	0
	Thanking	0	0
Total		25	100
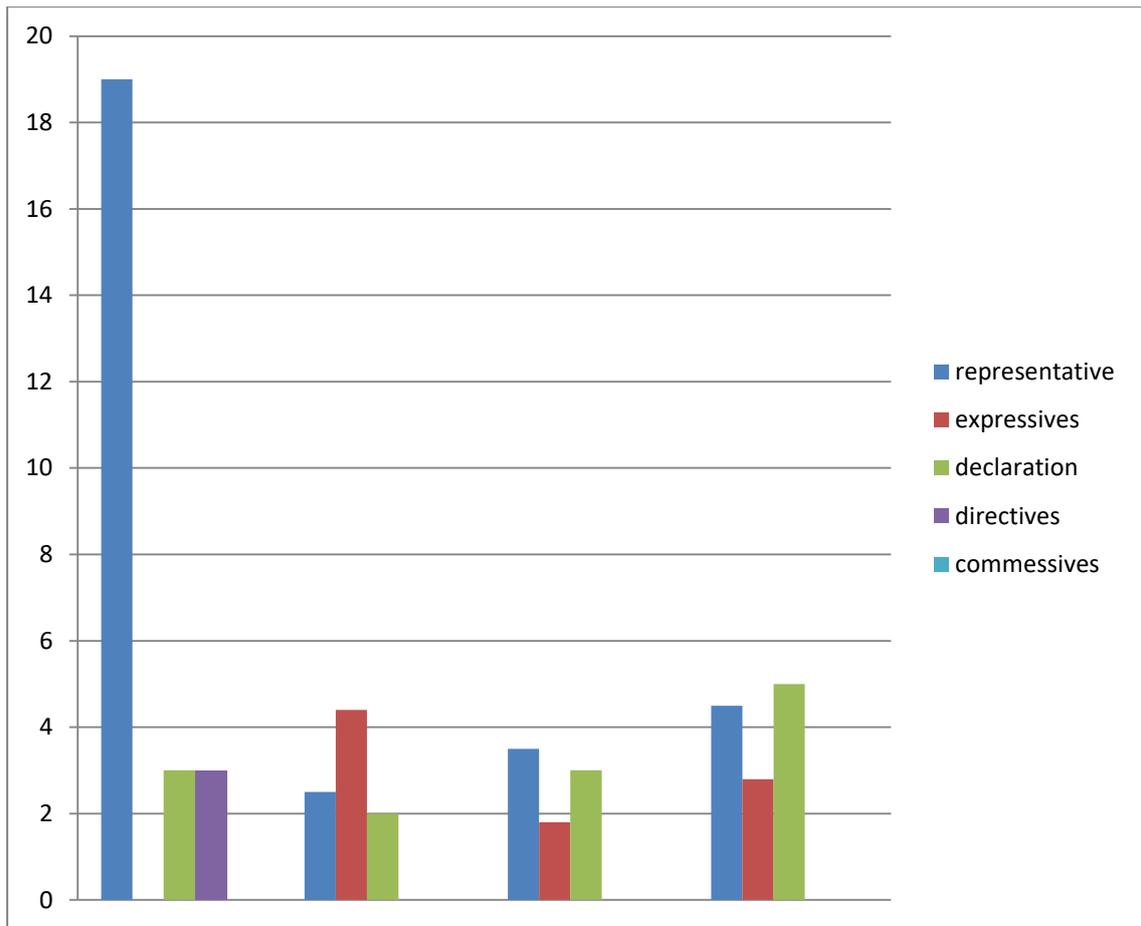
**Figure (9) : Rates of Speech Acts in American News Reports For
the Sake of Misrepresentation**

Table (7) and Figure (9) prove that the category of representative speech acts with its sub-acts are used more than others . This is obvious in the percentages these sub-acts score which are as follows: stating(28٪) , asserting and accusing (16٪), claiming (8٪) and finally insisting and confirming both score (4٪).This proves that reporters in one way or another , try to reflect their beliefs and opinions in what they report . The other category of speech acts which scores a percentage is that of directives, represented by the speech act of warning which scores (12 %). The exploitation of this speech act is intended to arouse the feelings of fear and warn the public of what is going on even when it is false.

Table (8) The Frequencies and Percentages of Maxims Non-Observance in American News Reports For the Sake of Misrepresentation

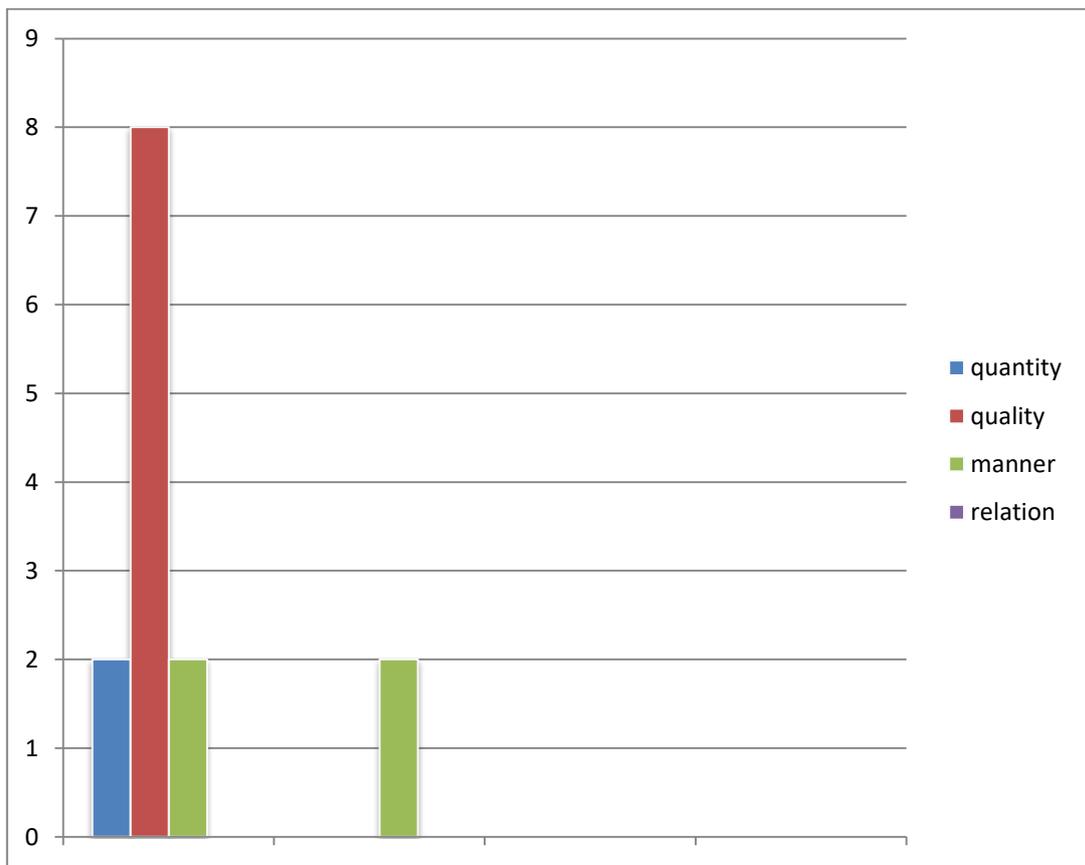| Maxims Non-Observance	Frequency	Percentage
Quantity	2	16.7
Quality	8	66.7
Manner	2	16.6
Relation	0	0
Total	12	100

Figure (10) : Rates of Maxim Non-Observance in American News Reports For the Sake of Misrepresentation

Figure(10) and Table (8) above show that the quality violation scores the highest percentage, that is (66.7%) what gives the indication that American news reporters report pieces of news which are either fake or lacking adequate evidence. Both quantity and manner violations score the almost same percentage, that is (16.7%) and (16.6) respectively. Quantity violation denotes that American news reporters give more information or less information than is required to misrepresent facts and events. They also violate manner maxim (be brief) because they always give unnecessary details and keep repeating false events.

Table (9): The Frequencies and Percentages of Fallacies in American News Reports For the Sake of Misrepresentation

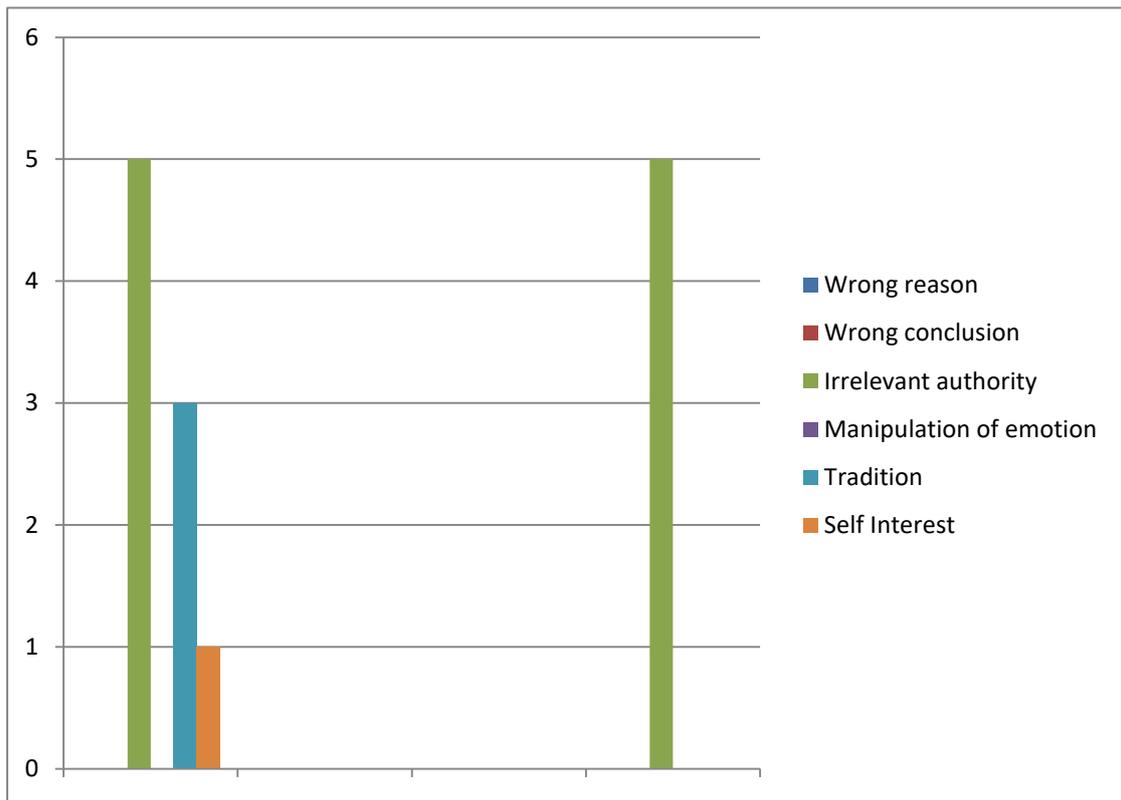| Fallacies	Frequency	Percentage
Wrong reason	0	0
Wrong conclusion	0	0
Irrelevant authority	5	55.6
Manipulation of emotion	0	0
Tradition	3	33,3
Self Interest	1	11.1
Total	9	100

Figure (11) : Rates of Fallacies in American News Reports For the Sake of Misrepresentation

The table and figure above indicate that irrelevant appeal to authority is widely used with the percentage (55.6٪) followed by the irrelevant appeal to tradition which scores (33.3٪). These percentages manifest that most American news reporters try to persuade others through the influence of their personalities and the way they present evidence (though it is illusory) to prove what they report.

Table (10): The Frequencies and Percentages of the Persuasive Strategies in American News Reports For the Sake of Misrepresentation

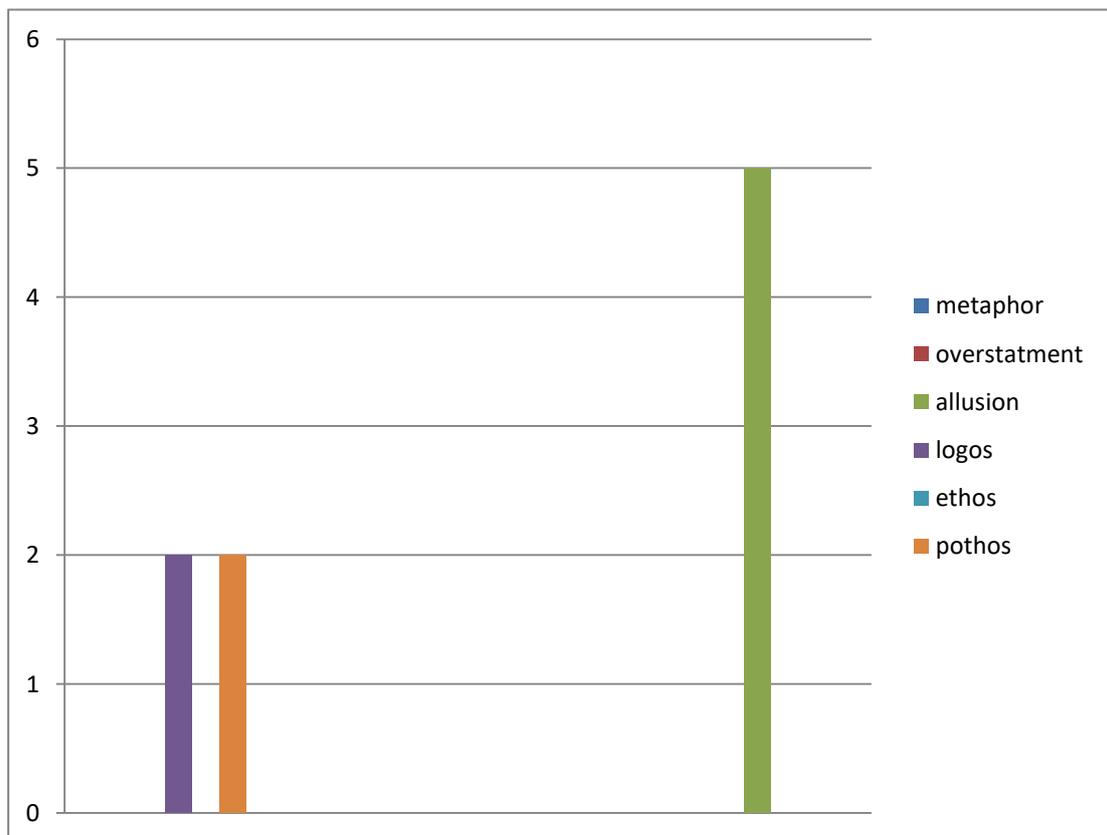| Persuasive strategies		Frequency	Percentage
Appeals	Logos	2	50
	Pathos	2	50
	Ethos	0	0
Tropes	Allusion	0	0
	Overstatement	0	0
	Metaphor	0	0
	Total	4	100

Figure (12) : Rates of Persuasive Strategies in American News Reports For the Sake of Misrepresentation

Table (10) and Figure (12) above show that American news reporters use numbers and sympathy in order to convince the public. This is made clear in the percentage the argumentative appeals to pathos and logos scores, which is (50%) for each. The absence of any percentage of pragma-rhetorical tropes shows that American news reporters do not favor their use.

Chapter Four

Conclusions, Recommendations and Suggestions

for Further Research

4.1 Introduction

This chapter, as its title suggests, is an abridgement of the conclusions arrived at by this study. It also includes a number of recommendations and suggestions for future research work.

4.2 Conclusions

Depending on the results of the pragmatic and statistical analyses, the following conclusions are arrived at:

1. Although there are three types of misrepresentation: fraudulent, negligent and innocent, both British and American news reporters make use only of the fraudulent and innocent type of misrepresentation because they try to deceive the public by their fake news and accordingly change their beliefs. This answers the question which reads as (What are the types of misrepresentation that are used by British and American news reporters?) and refutes the first hypothesis (British and American news reporters use different types of misrepresentation in an attempt to misrepresent facts and events)

2. British and American news reporters exploit various pragmatic strategies in their attempt to misrepresent facts and events in news reports. These strategies include speech acts, maxims non-observance , fallacies, and persuasive strategies. This answers the question (What are the pragmatic strategies employed by British and American news reporters in their attempt to misrepresent facts and events in news

reports?) and validates the second hypothesis which reads as (British and American news reporters make use of speech acts and fallacies as pragmatic strategies in their attempt to misrepresent facts and events).

3. There are no differences between British and American news reports as far as the exploitation of the pragmatic strategies of misrepresentation is concerned. British and American news reporters make use of the same pragmatic strategies for the sake of misrepresentation; they resort to speech acts, fallacies, maximsnon-observance , and persuasive strategies. This totally validates the third hypothesis (There is no difference between British and American news reports as far as the exploitation of the pragmatic strategies of misrepresentation is concerned) and answers the question which reads as (What is the difference, if there is any, between British and American news reports as far as the exploitation of the pragmatic strategies of misrepresentation is concerned?).

4. The pragmatic strategy of speech acts has prevalence over the other pragmatic strategies, namely maxims non-observance , fallacies, and persuasive strategies. British and American news reporters highly exploit speech acts in the process of misrepresenting news, particularly the category of assertives represented by (stating, asserting, and confirming) because they state their beliefs and opinions through the use of these sub-acts. This answers the question which reads as (Which pragmatic strategy has prevalence over other strategies in British and American news reports?) and validates the fourth hypothesis (Speech act strategy has prevalence over other strategies in British and American news reports).

5. **British and American news reports consist of the same stages in their organization, namely the initiating stage (represented by the headline), the constructing stage (i.e., the lead), and the maximizing stage

(body/lead development). This confirms the fifth hypothesis (There is no difference between British and American news reports as far as the stages those reports consist of) and answers the question which reads as (Are there any differences between British and American news reports as far as the stages those reports consist of?).

4.2 Recommendations

Misrepresentation is an ignominious phenomenon that should be avoided in all areas of language use, including news reports. In this regard, the following recommendations are set forth:

1. Textbook designers should include misrepresentation as a topic in the syllabuses and curriculums they design, with a special emphasis on annexing situations with misrepresentation from everyday life so that instructors and students are familiar with them and how they are structured linguistically, and thus know how to act appropriately.

2. Teachers should inform their students that misrepresentation is an awful communicative procedure so that they do not resort to it or become exposed to its negative consequences.

3. Students should get familiar with the many types and tools of misrepresentation so that they are not duped if they are exposed to fake events and stories.

4. Pragmatists have to investigate misrepresentation in different genres with a special attention on unveiling its types and the strategies that fulfill each type.

5. News reporters should avoid the misrepresentation of facts and events in reporting news putting in mind that the process of reporting news should be neutral.

4.3 Suggestions for Further Research

To support the findings of this work, the following topics are suggested for further research:

1. A Contrastive Study of Misrepresentation in English and Arabic news reports.
2. A Pragma-stylistic Analysis of Misrepresentation in British Twitter Discourse.
3. A Stylistic Study of Misrepresentation in American Online Communication.
4. A Pragma-rhetorical Study of Misrepresentation in American Presidential Campaigns.
5. A Socio-pragmatic Study of Misrepresentation in British and American Political Speeches.

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الخلاصة

تتناول هذه الدراسة التضليل في التقارير الإخبارية من الأمم المتحدة البريطانية والأمريكية. يُعتقد أن الباحثين لم يولوا اهتمامًا كافيًا للموضوع المعني ، على وجه التحديد. على هذا النحو ، تحاول هذه الدراسة سد هذه الفجوة في ساحة البحث التداولي للتضليل ، لا سيما في نوع التقارير الإخبارية .ومن ثم فهي تهدف إلى تحقيق ما يلي: اكتشاف أنواع التضليل التي يستخدمها مراسلو الأخبار البريطانيون والأمريكيون ، والكشف عن الاستراتيجيات التداولية التي يستخدمها صحفيو الأخبار البريطانيون والأمريكيون في محاولتهم تضليل الحقائق والأحداث في التقارير الإخبارية ، تحديد الفرق ، إن وجد ، بين التقارير الإخبارية البريطانية والأمريكية فيما يتعلق باستغلال الاستراتيجيات التداولية للتضليل ، وتحديد الاستراتيجية التداولية التي تسود على الاستراتيجيات الأخرى في التقارير الإخبارية البريطانية والأمريكية ، مع توضيح ما إذا كان هناك ما هي أية اختلافات بين التقارير الإخبارية البريطانية والأمريكية فيما يتعلق بالمراحل التي تتكون منها تلك التقارير.

تفترض الدراسة أن مراسلي الأخبار البريطانيين والأمريكيين يستخدمون تحريفًا احتياليًا في محاولة لتشويه التقارير الإخبارية ، ويستخدم مراسلو الأخبار البريطانيون والأمريكيون أفعال الكلام والمغالطات كاستراتيجيات عملية في محاولتهم تشويه الحقائق والأحداث. ، لا يوجد فرق بين التقارير الإخبارية البريطانية والأمريكية فيما يتعلق باستغلال الاستراتيجيات التداولية للتضليل ، واستراتيجية الفعل الكلامي لها السيادة على الاستراتيجيات الأخرى في التقارير الإخبارية البريطانية والأمريكية ، ولا يوجد فرق بين التقارير الإخبارية البريطانية والأمريكية. بقدر المراحل التي تتكون منها تلك التقارير.

تتبع الدراسة اجراءات معينة من أجل تحقيق أهداف الدراسة واختبار صحة فرضياتها: فهي تقدم مراجعة أدبية حول التضليل من منظور عملي ، وتجمع عينة من التقارير الإخبارية من مختلف المواقع الإخبارية والصحف البريطانية والأمريكية. لتكون بيانات الدراسة ، باستخدام النموذج الذي طورته الدراسة لتحليل البيانات الخاضعة للتدقيق بشكل عملي ، بالإضافة إلى الوسائل الإحصائية لتحليل البيانات كمياً ، ومناقشة نتائج التحليل للتوصل إلى استنتاجات معينة. تقتصر الدراسة الحالية على دراسة عملية للتضليل في تقارير إخبارية بريطانية وأمريكية مختارة. تم اختيار التقارير الإخبارية السياسية من مجموعة متنوعة من الصحف والمواقع الإخبارية البريطانية والأمريكية ، بما في ذلك "The Guardian و The

Independent و The Telegraph و Mail Online و The Economist" و " The
New York Times و New York Post و Fox News و فوكس ".

استفاد كل من اللغويات التطبيقية والتداولية واللغويات النصية من البحث الحالي. من المتوقع أيضًا أن يكون له أهمية كبيرة للطلاب والأساتذة ومصممي الكتب المدرسية ، وخاصة المهتمين بالموضوع. في ختام هذه الدراسة ، توصل الباحث إلى ما يلي: أولاً ، على الرغم من وجود ثلاث انواع من التضليل: احتيالي وبريء ومهمل ، لا يستخدم صحفيو الأخبار البريطانيون والأمريكيون سوى النوع الاحتيالي من التحريف. ثانيًا ، من أجل تزوير الحقائق والأحداث في التقارير الإخبارية ، يستخدم مراسلو الأخبار البريطانيون والأمريكيون مجموعة متنوعة من الاستراتيجيات التداولية . ثالثًا ، عندما يتعلق الأمر باستخدام التكتيكات التداولية للتضليل ، لا توجد فروق بين التقارير الإخبارية البريطانية والأمريكية. رابعًا ، توفر الإستراتيجية التداولية التي تستخدم أفعال الكلام ميزة كبيرة على التكتيكات التداولية الأخرى. أخيرًا ، لا فرق بين التقارير الإخبارية البريطانية والأمريكية فيما يتعلق بالمراحل التي تتكون منها تلك التقارير.