COVID-19 IS WAR, WATER & A PERSON: Metaphorical Language of the Coronavirus Disease in "the Jordan Times" Newspaper

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Abstract—Metaphors permeate our daily communication, and they are part of our cognition. The present study investigates metaphors in a corpus-based study during the Coronavirus disease 19 crisis (COVID-19) using the Antconc Software. The way written media discourse framed the COVID-19 Crisis, especially in the Middle East received little attention from discourse analysts. The data include news editorials about the Coronavirus disease 19 from April 1, 2020 to July 5, 2020 collected from "the Jordan Times" Newspaper in English. The metaphors will be analysed according to Lakoff and Johnson's (1980; 2003) perspective of *Conceptual Metaphors* and Charteris-Black (2004) of *Critical Metaphor Analysis*. The quantitative analysis shows that the conceptual metaphors COVID-19 IS WAR, COVID-19 IS WATER, and COVID-19 IS A PERSON are highly used in the corpus to frame the pandemic. The conceptual metaphor COVID-19 IS WAR is not only used to represent a war against the disease, but also a war between countries. So, the metaphorical use is politicised, and reflects hidden ideology. The quantitative analysis asserts that the context is the decisive factor for the analysis of certain lexical items related to the pandemic and identifying whether they are literally or metaphorically used.

Index Terms—conceptual metaphors, Covid-19, critical metaphor analysis, the Jordan Times Newspaper

I. INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus disease 19 or COVID-19 has affected the whole world in all aspects: politics, economy, social life, education, and health industry, etc. So, it is essential to investigate the language that is used to represent this global pandemic. Plenty of scientific research on the virus has been conducted since it started. However, very little linguistic research has been undertaken. Section 0 will present a brief background of COVID-19. So this paper tries to analyse the language used to talk about this crisis, especially figurative language, and conceptual metaphors, in particular. Metaphors are not only used to add beauty to the language, but also as a rhetorical device to persuade the audience and reflect ideology, as will be discussed later in this paper.

A. Background of COVID-19

Coronavirus disease 19 or COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a recently discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with it will suffer from mild to moderate respiratory illness besides some other symptoms such as fever, among others, and they will recover without special treatment. However, older adults with medical problems such as diabetes, cancer, or chronic respiratory diseases might suffer from serious illnesses. There is an increasing global concern about this pandemic as till 9 March 2022, there have been 448,313,293 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 6,011,482 deaths reported to World Health Organization (WHO) ("Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]", 2021).

B. Theoretical Framework

Since this paper will analyse news editorials following the theoretical framework of Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) perspective of Conceptual Metaphors and Charteris-Black's (2004) concept of Critical Metaphor Analysis, the following section will introduce the "Conceptual Metaphor" and the "Critical Metaphor Analysis."

1. Conceptual Metaphor

In their masterpiece, "Metaphors we Live by", Lakoff and Johnson (1980) are accredited for the rebirth of one of the most famous figures of speech, Metaphor. Lakoff and Johnson (1980; 2003) asserted that metaphorical expressions permeate our life, constituting an integral part of our daily communication. They also maintain that people in power, like politicians and media, "impose their metaphors" (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980, p. 157). Moreover, they viewed metaphorical expressions in terms of concepts and cognition. For example, the conceptual metaphor ARGUMENT IS WAR generates many metaphorical expressions like "attack a position", "new line of attack", "gain ground", "indefensible", and "strategy" (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003, p. 7). This shows systematicity, not a random use of metaphors. According to their perspective, the conceptual metaphor connects two semantic areas; Argument is what they have termed 'Target Domain' (TD), and WAR is the 'Source Domain' (SD). Specific features of the Source Domain are

mapped or transferred into the Target Domain. Another example of the systematicity of metaphors is the conceptual metaphor TIME IS MONEY, which forms the basis for many metaphorical expressions. For example,

1. You don't *use* your time profitably. I lost a lot *of time* when I got sick. *Thank you for* your time.
2. I've *invested* a lot of time in her.
3. This gadget will *save you hours*.
4. I don't *have enough* time to *spare* for that. You're *running out of* time. (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003, pp. 7-8)

This highlights our conception of time as a limited resource and a precious possession we value. Since this study will analyse metaphorical expressions according to (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980), and (Charteris-Black, 2004), the following section will give insight into the Critical Metaphor Analysis.

2. Critical Metaphor Analysis

Charteris-Black (2004) has also asserted that the language of people in power, such as politicians and media, relies much on emotive language, especially figurative language as discussed earlier by Lakoff and Johnson. He suggested a critical approach to analyse this style of language. He used what he termed Critical Metaphor Analysis (CMA), which is a synthesis of various disciplines such as Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Corpus Analysis, Pragmatics, and Cognitive Linguistics. So, metaphor is a blended form of thought and meaning. It investigates how the world, linguistic structures, and mental representation are integrated and related. For example, the Iraqi foreign minister (2002), Tariq Aziz, compared war in the Middle East to hell by claiming that a war in the Middle East would open the gates of "hell" (Charteris-Black, 2004, p. 1). Charteris-Black described metaphor as a "gateway through which persuasive and emotive ways of thinking about the world mould the language that we use and through which our thoughts about the world are shaped by language use" (p.2). Critical Metaphor Analysis provides the missing components of metaphor contexts through corpus analysis, and the pragmatic side of metaphor analysis should be investigated in terms of ideological and rhetorical elements. Metaphor plays a significant role in the manifestation of ideology in politics, media, and religion. Moreover, cognitive semantics should be integrated into the analysis of pragmatic factors. Blending Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) perspective of conceptual metaphors with Charteris-Black's (2004) Critical Metaphor Analysis will lead to better analysis and we can generalise when a big size of data is used. This is because Charteris-Black's Critical Metaphor Analysis combines different disciplines such as corpus analysis, CDA, and pragmatics, as discussed earlier, to investigate metaphorical expressions.

The current study aims at investigating how the media employs metaphors to convince the audience. It also intends to explore how ideology is reflected in the news reports by using corpus analysis, ideological and rhetorical analysis. The following section will shed light on previous studies investigating how the analysis of metaphor is approached in media, especially newspapers.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Media highly depends on the use of figurative language and is considered to be a rich source for the investigation of metaphor, in particular, as it is used to attract the audience's attention and persuade them, and it is also employed to reflect ideology. This section will present some previous studies that analysed metaphors in the media discourse.

Chiang and Duann (2007) investigated naming strategies and conceptual metaphors for SARS disease in three leading broadsheet newspapers: The People's Daily in China, the United Daily News, and the Liberty Times in Taiwan. The data include 212.000 Chinese characters based on two SARS-related editorials over a period spanning from March 15, 2003 to July 6, 2003. They used Charteris-Black (2004) theoretical framework of Critical Metaphor Analysis (CMA). Their analysis showed that the newspapers' political agendas and ideologies are spread through the use of metaphors. They found out that the conceptual metaphors DISEASE IS WAR and DISEASE IS A NATURAL DISASTER constitute the dichotomy of self and other. The analysis has also demonstrated that the linguistic devices do not represent the SARS disease in the medical domain but in the political discourse. The study concluded that the SARS disease is politicised; in a sense, it reflects the hidden ideologies rather than being represented as a disease. Like (Chiang & Duann, 2007), the current study will apply the same theoretical framework of Critical Metaphor Analysis (CMA) and investigate whether the corpus of "the Jordan Times" Newspaper employs the conceptual metaphor DISEASE IS WAR, and explore whether it is also politicised.

Linh (2011) investigated metaphors in a comparative study of two languages; she compared their use in English and Vietnamese newspapers. She tried to find out the similarities and differences in the use of metaphors between the two languages in semantic and syntactic analysis. According to the syntactic analysis, the results show that most metaphors in English and Vietnamese are used in the form of Noun Phrase (NP), Adjective Phrase (AP), Verb Phrase (VP), and Prepositional Phrase (PP). In both languages, journalists use NPs such as nouns, compound nouns, or adjective and a noun. Moreover, adjective, and a compound adjective, noun, AP, and Verb (V), V & NP, passive verbs, VP, N-VP were used in both languages. However, there was less frequent use of PPs in a metaphorical way. In terms of the differences in the syntactic level, the results show that the Vietnamese articles use more phrasal verbs than noun phrases (43.7 %) versus (34.4), in contrast, in English (39.1 %; 41.7 %). The analysis revealed metaphorical expressions of colour, weather, war, health, animal, food, journey, and characters in both languages. However, the percentage of metaphorical

expressions denoting colour, animal, food, and character was higher in the Vietnamese corpus. In contrast, the percentage of the metaphorical terms related to weather, war, health, and a journey was higher in the English corpus.

Krennmayr (2011) has also analysed the use of metaphors in newspapers in a corpus-based study. The corpus includes 190.000 words consisting of four registers taken from the BNC-Baby, a 4-million word sub-corpus of the BNC. The registers are news, academic texts, fiction, and conversation. She carried out a quantitative analysis of the frequency of metaphors in the news and compared their use to other registers, and investigated which types are prevailing. Moreover, she investigated which word class is typically metaphorically used. In addition, she tested whether people create metaphorical mapping while reading metaphorical expressions in news reports. She used the MIP, which stands for Metaphor Identification Procedure. This procedure depends on the comparison of the contextual and basic meanings of the lexical items. This procedure works 'bottom up', which means that it identifies linguistic metaphors, not conceptual structures because there is not a comprehensive study that includes all conceptual metaphors as she claimed. She found out that the percentage of the metaphorical use of word classes such as verbs, adjectives, and adverbs is higher in the news register than in the other registers such as conversation and academic texts. The results show that 16% of the news register corpus includes metaphorical language. This supports Biber's (1988) results which state that the more informative the discourse, the more metaphorical it is. She classified metaphors into three categories: direct, indirect, and implicit. She found out that the indirect metaphor is highly used, which counts 97.5 %, and the other types count only 2.5 %.

Chuang (2012) investigated the use of conceptual metaphors and metonymies in newspaper headlines. He analysed the Apple Daily news headlines from May 21 to May 27, 2012. He found that there are more metaphors and metonymies related to sports and entertainment than other ones. The concept of "fighting" shapes the foundation for metaphors. The conceptual metonymy TOPIC FOR SUBJECT was widely used in the Apple Daily Newspaper headlines. Chuang's study is limited to the investigation of conceptual metaphors in news headlines. Moreover, it investigated the use of two figures of speech in a short time, only one week. This will not provide a clear idea about using these two tropes because it is difficult to generalise the results. The current study will analyse both the headlines and the body of the news, and will focus on one figure of speech, which is a metaphor.

Al-Hindawi and Al-Saati (2016) limited their analysis to the investigation of the use of ontological metaphors in economic news. They conducted a pragmatic analysis of the types of ontological metaphors in a quantitative analysis of random data taken from different economic news websites. They investigated the use of personification, metonymy, hyperbole, simile, and idiomatic expressions. They asserted that metaphor is an essential element of the rhetorical language employed in the economic news to persuade the audience. The writers highly depend on them to represent abstract ideas in terms of physical concepts. They claim that those writers try to add colourful language by resorting to figurative language to make the news easier to be understood by the readers. They also found out a high percentage of metonymy and personification. However, hyperbole was rare because economic news deals more with accuracy and fundamental topics and issues. Therefore, this does not permit high use of hyperbole.

Like Chiang and Duann (2007) and Linh (2011), Fallah and Moini (2016) have also presented a comparative study of metaphorical use in two newspapers' editorials during the Arab Uprising or the Arab Spring (Keyhan and the Washington Post), the former is Persian and the latter is English. They investigated the metaphorical use in a corpus-based study of 60 editorials in a cognitive and pragmatic approach, uncovering the ideology represented in the corpus. The results revealed that the two newspapers demonstrated the same events from entirely different perspectives. The analysis showed that the Keyhan Newspaper presented the events as a religious conflict leading to contrastive images of dictators and their supporters as unbelievers and the source of evil. On the other hand, demonstrators were represented as believers and soldiers of God. However, in the Washington Post, the events were described as a democracy voyage, natural phenomenon, and political powers' game.

Similar to Chiang and Duann (2007) and Linh (2011), Hu and Xu (2017) have also studied metaphor use in the media discourse. They investigated metaphorical use in the Chinese media discourse; they analysed 2566 articles (about 1.2 million words), specifically the Economy column of the Chinese Daily published in 2014, based on the framework of Charteris-Black (2004) of Critical Metaphor Analysis (CMA). Similar to (Chiang & Duann, 2007) and (Linh, 2011), they also found that the war metaphor was frequently used in the corpus and functions as a rhetorical device to persuade the audience. Moreover, it helps to formulate the cognitive model of competition in the readers' minds, and stir their emotions by using metaphorical expressions related to war, so that they can easily understand the economic expressions.

A recent study analysed the flue-like pandemics before the COVID-19 crisis in a corpus-based study is (Taylor & Kidgel, 2021). They investigated how metaphors are employed in two corpora: Times Online, which includes articles from 1785-2011 and the Hansard Corpus of UK parliamentary debates from 1803 to 2005. They found that WAR / ENEMY metaphors were the most frequent ones in the corpus, followed by the container metaphor. However, the use of the WAR, ENEMY, and the CONTAINER metaphors had declined over time. In contrast, the use of the CONTAINER and WEIGHT metaphors has increased over time. In the UK parliamentary debates corpus, the CONTAINER and WATER metaphors were prevalent, and the virus was viewed as something to be contained, and like the wave of the sea. They noticed a shift in how pandemics were understood; there was a change in the perception of pandemics from the image of the enemy as an unexpected assailant to a more militarised frame, in which resistance to influenza is being highlighted.

In an attempt to investigate the language that is used to describe the COVID-19 crisis, Semino (2021) analysed the metaphors that are used to talk about the crisis in two corpora, the first one is #Reframe Covid, which is a collection of multilingual metaphors of COVID-19, and the second one is a corpus of news articles. Her analysis is limited to the investigation of fire metaphors. She found out that fire metaphors are frequently used in the corpora to discuss specific issues related to the pandemic. She detected some metaphorical expressions that were used to refer to the pandemic, such as fire, fire burning in the forest, spark, extinguish, embers, and ravaging. She found out that the metaphorical expressions used in the corpora are used for different purposes, such as conveying urgency and danger, distinguishing between different phases of the pandemic, explaining how the disease transmission happens through direct contact, and outlining the future after the pandemic, etc.

After previewing some previous studies investigating metaphors, especially in the media discourse, the following section will present the data collection and data analysis.

III. DATA COLLECTION AND DATA ANALYSIS

This research aims to give insight into the use of metaphorical language in newspapers' coverage of the COVID-19 news of a local newspaper in Jordan, "the Jordan Times" Newspaper. To achieve this goal, a corpus comprising 71,000 words is collected covering news related to the COVID-19 crisis. 135 editorials that only discuss issues related to the COVID-19 crisis are collected over a period spanning from April 1, 2020 to July 5, 2020. They are available online at the Newspaper's website (The Jordan Times, 2020). Both qualitative and quantitative analysis will be used to investigate the COVID-19 Crisis framed in the news by employing metaphorical language. The quantitative analysis will use the Antconc software (Anthony, 2022) that examines the frequency of certain lexical items related to the Source Domain war in the corpus, such as *war*, *fight*, *fighting*, *warrior(s)*, *battle* (n., v.), *hit*, *combat*, *warriors*, *threat*, *against*, and *victory* when they collocate with the lexical items related to the disease such as *virus*, *Coronavirus* and *pandemic*. It will also investigate the frequency of specific lexical items related to the conceptual metaphor DISEASE IS WATER such as *wave*, *flood*, *avalanche*, and *surge*. It will investigate the collocations of the lexical items used to refer to the disease such as *virus*, *Coronavirus* and *pandemic* to examine how COVID-19 is framed. Section 0 presents the analysis of conceptual metaphors in a corpus-based study of news editorials reported by the Jordan Times Newspaper about the COVID-19 Crisis.

IV. CORPUS-BASED ANALYSIS OF METAPHORS IN "THE JORDAN TIMES" NEWSPAPER

This section will analyse the use of metaphors in a corpus-based study of news editorials of "the Jordan Times" Newspaper according to Lakoff and Johnson's (1980, 2003) perspective of metaphorical expressions and Charteris-Black's (2004) of Critical Metaphor Analysis.

A. COVID-19 IS WAR

Searching the corpus, the quantitative analysis reveals that there are 338 tokens of the lexical item COVID-19, 278 of Coronavirus, 209 tokens of the pandemic, and 205 tokens of the virus. Table 1 presents the frequency of the lexical items related to the Coronavirus disease.

TABLE 1
THE FREQUENCY OF THE LEXICAL ITEMS RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

Lexical Item	Frequency
COVID-19	338
Coronavirus	278
Pandemic	209
Virus	205

The analysis of the corpus of "the Jordan Times" Newspaper reveals that the conceptual metaphor COVID-19 IS WAR[1] is the most frequent in the data. Fighting the virus was portrayed as a war. Many metaphorical expressions related to the Source Domain (SD) WAR are used, such as battle [2] (n, v.), batter, fight (n, v.), hit (n, v.), war, quash, slap, sapped, beat, victory, threat, warriors, confront, blow, blow off, combat(ing), fend off, beating, counter, defeat, and against. Searching the frequency of the source domain WAR in the corpus, 18 tokens of the lexical item war were found. However, only four of them were used metaphorically to refer to the metaphorical concept COVID-19 IS WAR. Most of them talk about real wars like World War I & II or the War in Syria. For example, "And the United States, the hardest-hit country, passed a grim milestone: with 116,854 deaths, the country has now seen more people die from the pandemic than in World War I" (Jun 18, 2020). Although the lexical item war in this context was not used metaphorically, it talks about the COVID-19 crisis. The lexical item war was also used metaphorically to talk about the pandemic, for example, "After the health-related victory, now is the time to act to balance the economic impact, as we have now entered into an economic war against the virus while we are still fighting the virus itself." (May 03, 2020). As

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[1] The uppercase will be used for the conceptual metaphors following Lakoff & Johnson's use.
[2] Metaphorical expressions from the corpus are *Italic*

it is clear from this context, a complete image of war is demonstrated; many lexical items related to war are used, such as victory, war, and fighting. The lexical item victory was used five times metaphorically to refer to the pandemic. For example, "Jahanpour said the 'small victory' against the coronavirus disease had been won despite 'enmities' towards Iran" (Apr 18, 2020). This shows that the pandemic has been framed as a battle and the virus as an enemy, and people, institutions, and countries do their best to conquer and win the battle against the enemy. This metaphor reflects the speaker's ideology, the Head of Iran's Health Ministry Public Relations Office, by describing the victory against the COVID-19 virus, and blaming the United States for the sanctions they impose on Iran, preventing them from buying testing kits for the COVID-19.

Searching the lexical item against, the quantitative analysis shows that there are 58 tokens, and examining the context reveals that 47 were used metaphorically to refer to the pandemic, 11 instances were excluded because they do not refer to the COVID-19 crisis. For example,

> The two ministers also warned *against* any Israeli steps to annex Palestinian territories, reiterating their rejection of such measures that violate international law and undermine efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive peace according to relevant international legitimacy laws, the statement said (Apr 09, 2020).

In the above-cited quotation, the lexical item *against* was excluded because it does not refer to the crisis. An example in which the lexical item against is used metaphorically to refer to the crisis is "Noting that COVID-19 has changed the world and highlighting the concept of re-globalisation, His Majesty said countries must cooperate and put their differences aside in face of the greater battle *against* COVID-19 and its repercussions" (Jun 08, 2020). As we can notice, a complete image of fighting is represented as if we are in a real war. The author quotes King Abdullah's words, in which he compared the crisis to a battle against an enemy, as an authority to convince the audience of the dangers of the disease and its consequences if they do not follow the preventative measures.

Another lexical item related to the conceptual metaphor COVID-19 IS WAR is *threat*. Searching the corpus, 10 occurrences of the lexical item threat were found. By examining them carefully, one token was excluded because it does not refer to the COVID-19 crisis. For example, "Safadi also pointed to the 'unprecedented danger' posed to peace prospects by Israel's implementation of its decision to annex occupied Palestinian lands, urging the international community to take a 'clear and effective stance' that rejects annexation as a violation of international law and a threat to chances for regional peace" (Jun 16, 2020). Below is an example of the metaphorical use of the lexical item *threat* used to refer to the pandemic:

This virus represents the greatest economic threat since the Great Depression in 1929, the minister added. Just as the health effects of the virus have been more severe for patients with other chronic conditions, its economic impact is worse for companies that also had previous struggles, the minister said (May 03, 2020).

The health side effects of COVID-19 were compared to the financial consequences due to the pandemic. The "Great Depression" was a worldwide economic decline in business and economic activities, which lasted for ten years from 1929 to 1939. It was the most prolonged severe depression that affected the industrialised Western world (Romer, 2021). To understand the meaning of the "Great Depression", the analyst must go beyond the text and have cultural knowledge about this event, which was not mentioned in the text. This is a "Homophoric reference", in which the identity of the item cannot be understood by specific reference to the context of the text, but by referring to the cultural knowledge in general (Paltridge, 2006, p.132).

Another lexical item related to the source domain war is *fight*. For example, the lexical item *fight* and its related forms were used 26 times in a metaphorical way related to fighting COVID-19. Searching the corpus, 29 occurrences of the lexical item *fight* were found. However, three instances were excluded because they are not used to represent the pandemic, such as "Turning to efforts to *fight* corruption" (Jun 08, 2020), and "a custom initially meant to ensure the welfare of widows and orphans of those who had died fighting for Islam" (May 19, 2020), "The Pope urged the world's leaders to put aside their political fights and call back their armies during a global health emergency of a magnitude not seen in 100 years" (Apr 12, 2020). Therefore, it is essential to understand the context and find out if the lexical item was used metaphorically and is relevant to the pandemic or not. For example, in one of the headlines, the word fight was used metaphorically to talk about the virus "South Korea keen to further bolster Amman-Seoul ties, joint virus *fight* — envoy" (May 02, 2020). As we can notice from the headline, COVID-19 was portrayed as war, requiring collaboration to fight against it. This supports Chuang's (2012) analysis, which revealed that the concept of fighting shapes the basis of metaphors in his study of news headlines. So, the current study shows that the metaphorical use of the concept of fighting is not only frequent in the headlines but also the body of the news. Table 2 presents the frequency of the lexical item *fight* in the corpus.

TABLE 2
THE FREQUENCY OF THE METAPHORICAL USE OF THE LEXICAL ITEM *FIGHT* IN THE CORPUS

Word Class	Frequency	Percentage
Noun: fight(s) / fighting	18	69%
Verb: (to) fight	8	31%
Total	26	100%

Other lexical items frequently used in the corpus that refer to the conceptual metaphor COVID-19 IS WAR are *battle* and *battling*. The lexical item *battle* was used 16 times in the corpus in a metaphorical way to refer to the COVID-19

crisis, and the noun battling was metaphorically used 4 times. Table 3 below presents the frequency of the lexical items battle and battling in the corpus. For example, "Jordan's battle against the coronavirus pandemic is not over yet" (Apr 02, 2020), as the Jordanian Minister of State for Media Affairs Amjad Adaileh stressed. As we can notice, fighting against the disease was compared to a battle as it was also clearly compared to in one of the American President Donald Trump's speeches "I watched the doctors and the nurses going into that, walking into that hospital this morning. It's like military people going into battle" (Apr 01, 2020).

TABLE 3
THE FREQUENCY OF THE METAPHORICAL USE OF THE LEXICAL ITEMS *BATTLE* AND *BATTLING*

Word Class	Frequency	Percentage
Noun: battle	14	70%
Noun: battling	4	20%
Verb: to battle	2	10%
Total	20	100%

Table 3 shows that the lexical item battle was highly used as a noun, and twice only as a verb in a metaphorical way. For example, "Safadi and his Kuwaiti counterpart Ahmed Nasser Al Mohammad Al Sabah discussed measures taken to battle the virus and the latest regional developments" (Apr 14, 2020). So, the main focus was on the whole process of fighting against this disease. Another lexical item that was highly used in a metaphorical way related to the conceptual metaphor COVID-19 IS WAR is hit. There are 34 instances of the metaphorical use of hit in the corpus. Table 4 presents the frequency of the lexical item hit in the corpus. For example, it was metaphorically used as a verb "The government's economic priorities focus on underpinning the sectors most-affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Omar Razzaz said on Monday, stressing that tourism has been *hit* hardest by the crisis both locally and globally" (Jun 16, 2020).

TABLE 4
THE FREQUENCY OF THE LEXICAL ITEM HIT IN THE CORPUS

Word Class	Frequency	Percentage
Noun: hit	5	15%
Adjective: hit	17	50%
Verb: to hit	12	35%
Total	34	100%

Another interesting point in framing COVID-19 in the corpus is that it is not only a war against the disease, but it is also shifted to be a war between countries. For example,

Despite the somber mood, President Donald Trump insisted the end was in sight in the fight against COVID-19.

Speaking from the White House lawn, Trump addressed a crowd that included frontline health workers battling the virus.

He accused China — where the outbreak originated late last year — of a cover-up that allowed the illness to race across the globe, but hailed American "scientific brilliance."

"We'll likely have a therapeutic and/or vaccine solution long before the end of the year," he said (Jul 05, 2020).

As we can notice from the above-cited quotation, the disease is also politicised; the war is not only against the virus, it is also a war between countries such as America and China because they accuse each other of the actual spread of the disease. This is in line with Chiang and Duann's (2007) observation that the SARS disease was politicised. Similarly, in the corpus, COVID-19 was also politicised in a sense, it becomes not only a war against the spread of the virus but also a war between the two countries, America and China. The concept of politicising the pandemic was clearly stated in the corpus by the WHO's General Manager Tedros Gebreyesus; he said, "We cannot defeat this pandemic with a divided world". "The politicisation of the pandemic has exacerbated it" (Jun 23, 2020). He asserted that politicising the pandemic makes it worse and more violent. This is part of the Critical Metaphor Analysis perspective, which states that metaphors are employed in some contexts like media to reflect the ideology and political agendas, as it was previously explained.

So it is obvious how a complete picture of representing fighting COVID-19 as a real war is drawn by using many lexical items related to the metaphorical use of war, fighting, warriors, and other lexical items that refer to the conceptual metaphor COVID-19 IS WAR. This is in line with (Chiang & Duann's, 2007; Linh, 2011; and Hu & Xu's, 2017) results; they found that the war metaphor was frequently used in their corpus. This also aligns with Al-Hindawi and Al-Saati's (2016) observation, in which they found that writers of economic news use metaphorical language to turn abstract ideas into physical concepts to be easily understood by the audience.

Another lexical item related to the conceptual metaphor COVID-19 IS WAR is *combat*, 12 instances were used metaphorically to refer to the pandemic. For example, "In line with this recurring theme, 84 per cent expressed trust and confidence in recent government actions and measures, while 75 per cent considered the measures taken by authorities to *combat* the coronavirus disease to be 'optimal'" (May 14, 2020). The pandemic is compared to a war in which individuals are fighting to convince the audience of the seriousness of the disease; so they feel less dissatisfied with the

government's measures of the lockdown and consequently follow the preventative measures. Abstract ideas are converted into physical images of contesting, so that they are easier to be understood by the audience.

Another lexical item that was metaphorically used to refer to the conceptual metaphor COVID-19 IS WAR is *warriors*, as exemplified in one of the headlines, "In one Beirut hospital, COVID warriors through their own eyes" (May 11, 2020).

B. COVID-19 IS WATER

The conceptual metaphor COVID-19 IS WATER is frequently used in the corpus. Lexical items such as *wave*, *flood*, *surge*, *sapped*, and *avalanche* are used metaphorically to refer to the pandemic. There are 21 instances of the metaphorical use of *wave* to refer to COVID-19. For example, "But many of them have gone weeks without seeing their families and, while infections have remained relatively limited in Lebanon, they fear a second wave will *flood* their wards" (May 11, 2020). The spread of the pandemic is compared to water by using the lexical items wave and flood to convince the audience of the dangers of the disease as it quickly spreads.

The lexical items *surge* and *surging* are also used in the corpus to refer to the conceptual metaphor COVID-19 IS WATER as exemplified in "Virus death toll nears half a million as cases surge in US, Latin America" (Jun 23, 2020), "A *surge* in coronavirus disease cases sapped the fun out of July 4 celebrations in the United States as the pandemic also accelerated through neighbouring Mexico, the rest of Latin America and South Africa" (Jul 05, 2020). The lexical item *surge* is used metaphorically as a verb and a noun in the previous examples. By using the noun *surge*, the verbs *sapped* and *accelerated*, the writer justifies why the American celebrations of Independence Day were ruined, and this is due to the spread of the virus. The verb sapped has a sense of a fluid as it is defined as "of a body fluid (such as blood) essential to life, health, or vigor" ("Sap", 2021).

C. COVID-19 IS A PERSON

Searching the collocations of the lexical items Coronavirus, virus and the pandemic, the analysis shows that the COVID-19 is personified. Human characteristics are mapped unto the target domain Coronavirus and the pandemic such as teaching, driving changes, laying waste, creating, pushing, shedding light, disrupting, etc. For example, "While the coronavirus pandemic has driven sweeping changes in the way many people see their local doctor, it has also highlighted the role telemedicine can play in connecting clinicians with remote communities" (Jun 02,2020), "the coronavirus began sweeping the country in March" (Jun 14, 2020), "Coronavirus pushes technology forward" (May 12, 2020), "the minister also noted that the coronavirus crisis has shed light on the shortcomings of both independent and state media" (May 18, 2020), Q: What do you think the pandemic is teaching us all? A: It's teaching us to look at our priorities and it's showing us our reality (Jun 09, 2020). Human characteristics are attributed to the COVID-19 crisis to turn abstract ideas into physical entities and human beings so that they are easier to be understood.

V. Implications, Limitations, and Recommendations

This study analysed news editorials about COVID-19 within the theoretical framework of Lakoff and Johnson (1980) and Charteris-Black's (2004) of Critical Metaphor Analysis. It limits itself only to the news about COVID-19 during a specific period, so other pieces of news about other topics or the same topic but in a different period can be analysed. Furthermore, it is limited to the investigation of only one figure of speech, which is metaphor, therefore, further research can analyse other figures of speech such as metonymy, hyperbole, parallelism, or other figures of speech. In addition to that, this study focuses on one newspaper in one language, which is "the Jordan Times" Newspaper in English. Therefore, further research might be conducted on a comparative study between other newspapers and other languages.

VI. Conclusion

This study contributes to the investigation of the representation of the metaphorical language in media discourse and corpus-based studies. This paper investigated metaphorical language employed in newspaper editorials of "the Jordan Times" Newspaper. The corpus-based analysis revealed that metaphor is a rhetorical technique used to represent abstract ideas in terms of physical concepts, such as *war*, *water*, and *people*. Many lexical items related to fighting the COVID-19 crisis are used such as *war*, *battle*, *fight*, *hit*, *quash*, *warriors*, *battle*, and *victory*. Metaphor is employed in the corpus to reflect the ideology and it is also politicised, which is the core of the Critical Metaphor Analysis presented by Charteris-Black (2004). The conceptual metaphors COVID-19 IS WATER, and COVID-19 IS A PERSON are also used in the corpus to convince the audience of the seriousness of the disease. Lexical items related to the source domain water are used such as wave, flood, avalanche, and surge. The investigation of the media discourse stresses the fact that understanding context, and having background knowledge about some concepts that are mentioned in the news are essential requirements for sound analysis and comprehension of the discourse.

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