Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis of Saudi Vision 2030

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Abstract:
Saudi Vision 2030 is a plan to steer the country towards prosperity through diversified economy, better government services and conducive environment for all to thrive. The study of wordlists, keyword lists, collocation analyses, identification of core issues on the basis of lexical fields and their reflection in 2018 English newspapers in Saudi Arabia qualifies the corpus-assisted present study for Critical Discourse Analysis. The corpora of 4.3 million words and 2.0 million words from the English Newspapers in Saudi Arabia published in 2013 and 2018 respectively have been compiled for the study. Saudi Vision 2030 has been treated as a specialized corpus to get frequency lists and collocations. The analyses identified the extraordinary use of second person plural pronoun 'we' 'our', modal auxiliary 'will' etc.; such explorations paved the way for entry into more qualitative investigations. On the basis keyword lists, key issues have been identified in all three corpora. Some key issues including the largest lexical field in newspaper corpora viz. 'Security' has been found missing in the said vision. The present study aims to bring forth a fresh insight into Saudi Vision 2030 and to advocate the corpus-assisted methodology for critical discourse analysis.

Keywords: lexical fields, key issues, keyword lists, Saudi Vision 2030, wordlists

1. Introduction:

The future plans or the vision for a country is generally is a document that presents the transformational plan to enable the country to meet the current and future needs of the country in a better way. Saudi vision 2030 (SV2030, when referred to corpus) promises thorough transformations and the uplift of various indicators internationally presented by Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman. It is one of the most important documents for Saudi Arabia in recent history. Its far-reaching impact nationally and internationally invited the attention of the present researchers. The corpus-assisted research, on the basis of numerous instances, has the advantage of sifting through the huge data objectively. On the other hand, critical discourse analysis paves the way for looking into the issues that remain obscured otherwise. The combination of corpus-assisted research and critical discourse analysis usually produce optimal results as is the case with the present research. The present research is a kind of "bottom-up" Biber, Connor & Upton (2007) research as it started with the study of wordlists and keyword lists. This study has three sections: Wordlists and Keyword Lists Analysis, Identification of Key Issues, and Pronouns and Modal Verbs analysis.

2. Data Collection and Methodology:

Two corpora namely Saudi Newspaper Corpus (SNC 2013) and Saudi Newspaper Corpus (SNC 2018) from the years 2013 and 2018 (first quarter of the years) respectively, have been compiled. The size of SNC 2013 is 4.3 million words and that of SNC 2018 is 2.0 million words. The texts have been collected for both the corpora from Arab News, Saudi Gazette, Asharq Al-Awast, and Saudi Press Agency. The complete texts from the newspapers have been added to the corpus. The SV2030 (12000 words) has been converted to plain text to be used as a Specialized corpus. To get the keywords from SV2030, SNC 2018 and SNC 2013 have been used as Reference Corpora. However, to obtain the keywords from SNC 2018 and SNC 2013 corpora, we needed a larger corpus. Brown Family corpora and PWE (Pakistani Written English, compiled by one of the authors of this paper) were available. These available corpora were combined to make a large corpus of 6 million words to be used as a reference corpus. The wordlists and keyword lists have been prepared by using WordSmith 7, Antconc 3.5.7, CasualConc 2, and Sketch Engine has been used to study the lexis and concordance lines in details. The key issues have been identified from keyword lists manually on the basis of lexical fields. The concordance lines have been studied from WordSmith 7 to ensure the context of occurrences and to avoid Widdowsonian criticism "the text travels but the context does not travel with it" (Widdowson, 2002).

3. Literature Review:

A corpus is a "naturally occurring" (Sinclair, 1991, p. 171) representative sample of a given language (Francis & Kucera, 1982, p. 7) that is "machine-readable" (Engwall, 1992, p. 167) and has "a finite-sized body" (McEnery & Wilson, 1996, p. 32) and "a specific set of criteria" (Bowker & Pearson, 2004, p. 9). The general-purpose corpora have been around for more than half a century. The size of corpora varies from a few thousand to giga-words corpora. The specialized corpora are usually smaller and "more qualitative-based analyses tend to be carried out on specialized corpora as their size and composition make them more manageable for qualitative studies" McCarthy and Carter (2001) cited in Flowerdew (2004). Multi-million words specialized corpora are not uncommon e.g. 5-million-word Cambridge and Nottingham Corpus of Discourse in English (CANCODE). The size of the specialized corpora depends on the needs and purpose of

the study Flowerdew (2004). Finally, Baker's (2010) stance in favor of small-scale corpus-assisted analyses paved the way for the present research. The present research benefited from the insight generated by "how opinions are formed and expressed through language" (Baker, 2006); "argument structures" (Koteyko et al., 2013); "framing analysis" Touri and Koteyko (2014); "CDA of News Reports" Chan (2013); "CDA and Synergy" Gabrielatos & Duguid (2014); "Keyness Analysis" Gabrielatos (2018) etc. on corpus linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis.

Discourse analysis enables linguists and social scientists to explore endless aspects of human interaction and how the message is mediated between the speaker and the interlocutors. The discourse study can be further augmented by the corpus to explore the underlying patterns that help create a slant. Schiffrin, Tannen, and Hamilton (2001) presented three dimensions of discourse analysis: the study of language use, the study of linguistic structure "beyond the sentence", and the study of social practices and ideological assumptions. Biber, Connor and Upton (2007) developed a seven-step approach to discourse analysis and proposed to use it as "top-down" or "bottom-up" (p.25). The present research is aligned with the first dimension "study of language use" and "bottom up" approach. Upton and Cohen (2009) explores "why languages have structural variants with nearly equivalent meanings e.g. particle movement, as in "pick up the book" versus "pick the book up" (p.2). Moreover, the present research reflects Hoey's (1997) call for examining whether words are associated with a particular positioning in the overall textual organization, and on the other hand, it explores the "system of statements which constructs an object" (Parker 1992, p.5).

Pronouns function a key role in political discourses and empower the users to control the power relations through varying referents of the pronouns they use. Pennycook (1994) observed that pronouns are a useful tool in the hands of the politicians to manipulate the discourse. Makutis (2016) found exclusive 'we' as 'I + government' in her data of UN speeches. Politicians reap full benefits of the 'inclusive' and exclusive' use of 'we-pronoun'. 'we' can refer to the speaker and the audience, speaker and the government, speaker and ministry (or a particular group representing government or opposition), speaker and the panelists, and/or speaker and likeminded people etc. Wilson (1990) gauges the referents of 'we' ranging from we as 'self and one other' to we as 'self and humanity'. The "institutional identity" can be created by 'we' pronoun (Sacks, 1992, p.334). Clusivity – a rather recent term in discourse studies – offers a great insight in the study of discourse through personal pronouns. The "Clusivity" refers to the inclusiveness and exclusiveness of the addressee in a discourse (Wieczorek, 2013). Clusivity has been studied morphologically by (Cysouw, 2005a), syntactically by (Dobrushina & Goussev, 2005) semantically by (Lichtenberk 2005) and pragmatically by Wieczorek, 2010). First person pronouns are important in "Legitimizing" (Wieczorek, 2013) as it enhances the acceptability and justification of the idea or decision to convince people. Kneuer maintains 'this "we-identity" is basic insofar as it justifies the obligation of solidarity that underlies community' (2011, p.3 cited in Wieczorek, 2013). Likewise, Cameron (2001) considers using 'we' instead of "American people and I" creates more sense of unity and belongingness. The insight gathered from the above-mentioned scholars paved the way to study the extensive use of 'we' and 'our' in the Saudi Vision 2030 in the present study.

Modality is seen as the relation of utterance with reality or non-reality from the point of view of the speaker. Due to the inherent philosophic nature of modality, various categories of

Modality have been presented e.g. von Wright's 'alethic, epistemic, deontic, and existential' (1951 p.1-2);   Nuyts "epistemic, deontic, and dynamic" (2005, p.2); Gabrielatos "Likelihood, Desirability (directed), Desirability (non-directed), and Propensity" (2010) etc. The role of modal verbs cannot be overemphasized in a discourse as they show the speaker's intentions, obligations, possibilities and desires in time. Bell (1991) classifies addressee as audience and auditors; and maintained that auditors are not present at the time of delivery yet they influence the choice of language used by the speaker. The role of auditors becomes even more potent in "Commissive Modality". Nartey and Yankson (2014) observed that "modal auxiliary verbs are used extensively in the manifesto to give the message a sense of intention, promise, obligation and necessity in a conscious and strategic attempt to persuade the electorate" (p.21). Modal verbs express intentions and obligations with various degrees of pragmatic forces should/must, time frames can/could, certainty will/shall etc. However, a single modal verb can perform various functions e.g. 'I will see you in the evening' may be seen as a 'promise', 'threat', 'possibility' and 'willingness' etc., as shown by Abdul-Fattah (2011) also "volitional will, epistemic will and deontic shall fit in: a. John will meet Mary. (volition - will is accented) b. That will be John at the door. (Epistemic - strong possibility) c. You shall abide by the traffic law(Deontic)" (p.42)

4.   Analyses and Discussions:
4.1 Wordlists and Keyword lists
The starting point of the present research is sifting through the wordlists to get the 'feel' of the corpus. The wordlist of SV2030 has been created to identify the most frequent items (content and grammatical words) in the corpus. Saudi Vision 2030 has been downloaded from the official website in pdf and then has been converted to .txt format.

Figure.1 Wordlist of SV2030 from WordSmith 7

We can see the high frequency of pronouns e.g. 'our', 'we', 'will', 'their', from the fig.1. On the other hand, we can see 'sector', 'government', 'economy', services' etc. among most frequent nouns; and ''economic', 'national', 'Saudi', 'new' and 'private' etc among most frequent adjectives. Saudi Vision 2030 has been presented and addressed to the nation by the Crown Prince,

so 'our' and 'we' may be interpreted as the current regime of Saudi Arabia. On the basis of the wordlist, we find 'economic' concerns are at the heart of the document.
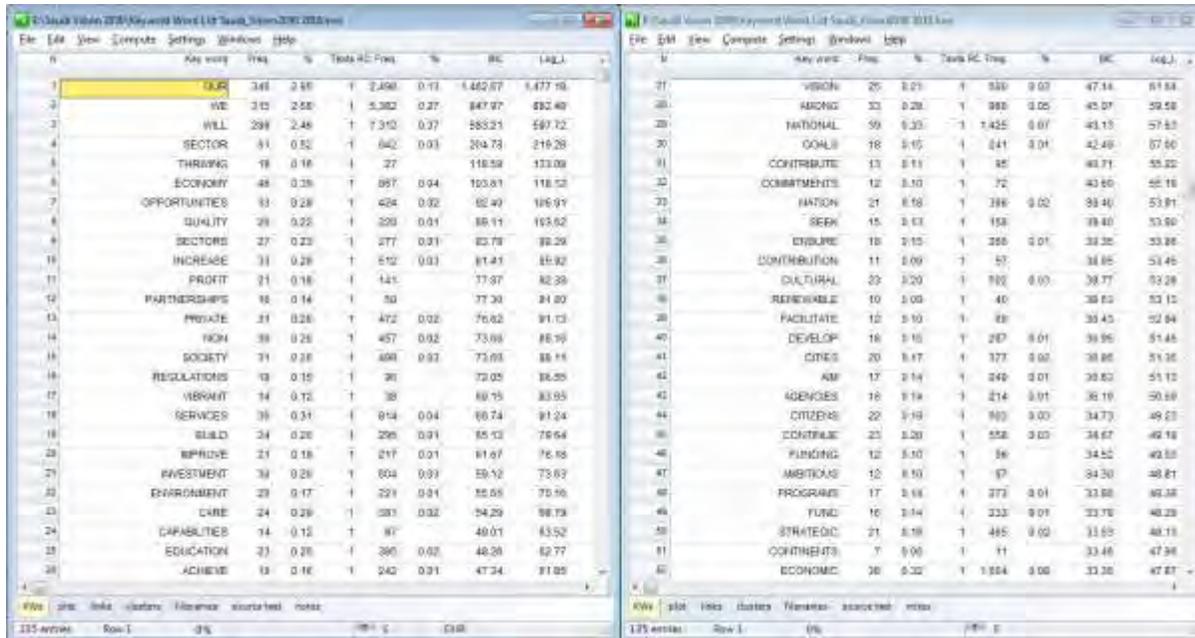

Figure. 2 Keywords list in SV2030 compiled against SNC 2018 from WordSmith 7

The keyword list of SV2030 has been calculated from WordsSmith 7 and SNC 2018 has been used as Reference Corpus. The keyword list has been sorted according to Log likelihood to explore the keyness. The pronouns 'our' and 'we' showed the highest value of keyness along with 'will' in the keyword list. These are the only grammatical words that appear among the first 100 keywords. Only these three words comprise above 8% of the whole document. The next 4 keywords in the list: 'sector', 'thriving', 'economy', and 'opportunities' are all about economic activities. 'Sector' mainly collocates with 'private' and 'energy'; 'thriving' is only used with 'economy'- the second most frequent noun keyword – has L1 collocates 'thriving' and 'our'; 'opportunities' collocates with 'job' 9 times and the rest of occurrences are in the context of economy. Some words that may occur in the contexts other than 'economy' easily, but in SV2030 have been noted in the context of economy e.g. 'Increase' and 'cities' has context in figure 3:

Figure.3 Concordance lines of 'cities' in SV2030

Concordance

of goods and develop necessary sectoral regulations . We will **also increase financing** of small retail enterprises to stimulate their
enhance the capability, efficiency and productivity of care and treatment **and increase the** options available to our citizens. To achieve this goal, we will
revenue stream. Non-oil revenues will increase as logistical and trade **flows increase, and** as we grow a more diversified and balanced Saudi economy.
points by 2020. This would be a substantial achievement given the **high increase in** the number of new entrants to the housing market. We will meet
of the real estate project in one single phase, which caused a **significant increase in** construction costs and several delays in delivery. This resulted in
. Even though 47 percent of Saudi families already own their homes, we aim **to increase this** rate by five percentage points by 2020. This would be a
26 to 10 in the Social Capital index AMONG OUR GOALS BY 2030 • • • IP **To increase the** average life expectancy from 74 years to 80 years AMONG
and improve our competitiveness. We will develop the necessary capabilities **to increase the** quality and reliability of our services. We will coordinate with
top 15 To increase the localization of oil and gas sectors from 40% to 75% **To increase the** Public Investment Fund's assets, from SAR 600 billion to over 7
we have fewer than 1,000 non-profit foundations and associations. In order **to increase the** resilience and impact of this sector, we will continue to develop
foreign direct investment from 3.8% to the international level of 5.7% of GDP **To increase the** private sector's contribution from 40% to 65% of GDP AMONG
, and international brands across all regions of the country. We also aim **to increase the** contribution of modern trade and e-commerce to 80 percent of
our current position as the 19th largest economy in the world into the top 15 **To increase the** localization of oil and gas sectors from 40% to 75% To increase
of and designed a new fundamental strategy for the district in order **to increase the** chances of profitability and success. We will seek to transform
GOALS BY 2030 To lower the rate of unemployment from 11.6% to 7% **To increase SME** contribution to GDP from 20% to 35% AN EDUCATION THAT
of government spending. Shared services in our government will also aim **to increase quality,** cut costs, unify our efforts, and provide a suitable work
them and we will build the capability to monitor this transition. We will seek **to increase private** sector contribution by encouraging investments, both local
VIBRANT SOCIETY.. WITH STRONG ROOTS AMONG OUR GOALS BY 2030 **To increase our** capacity to welcome Umrah visitors from 8 million to 30 million
their performance AN AMBITIOUS NATION.. EFFECTIVELY GOVERNED **To increase non-oil** government revenue from SAR 163 billion to SAR 1 Trillion To
of the private sector, it currently contributes less than 40 percent of GDP. **To increase its** long-term contribution to our economy, we will open up new
NATION.. RESPONSIBLY ENABLED AMONG OUR GOALS BY 2030 • **To increase household** savings from 6% to 10% of total household income To
position of 25 to the top 10 countries on the Global Competitiveness Index **To increase foreign** direct investment from 3.8% to the international level of 5.7%
enhanced logistics services ECONOMY AND HELP SAUDI COMPANIES **TO INCREASE EXPORTS** OF THEIR PRODUCTS. WE WILL LEVERAGE THE CLOSE

Figure.4 Concordance lines of 'increase' in SV2030

   The concordance lines of all the key issues in SV2030 have been studied to verify their context e.g. concordance line no. 1, 7 and 8 of the word 'cities'; and concordance line no. 2, 8 and 17 do not have the context of economy. The predominant use of these words is in the economic context made the researchers place them under the key issue of 'economy'. Hence, the predominant use of each keyword has been kept in mind while placing them the key issues.

Figure.5 Keywords list in SV2030 compiled against SNC 2013 from WordSmith 7

Some interesting findings have been noted in the comparison of Keyword lists of SV2030 against SNC 2018 and SNC 2013 corpora. Both the keyword lists have striking similarities: keywords at the first 10 ranks are either similar or they are from the nearby ranks; keywords at the first 30 ranks from SNC 2108 are available in SNC 2013 with one exception 'national' that is ranked 84 in the later; all the keywords at the first 50 ranks in SNC 2018 are available in SNC 2013 within first 100 ranks with only one exception 'agencies' that is ranked 105 in the later. Such close similarities (the words with high keyness of SV2030 in the reference corpora) in both the keyword lists show that the issues in Saudi Vision 2030 are underrepresented in the newspapers. On the other hand, it was expected that there will be more representation of Saudi Vision 2030 in SNC 2018 than its presence in SNC 2103. We can note the focused and consistent presence of these high-frequency words in SV2030 that reflects the priorities of the regime.

The study of concordance lines of these top-ranked words in the keyword lists also reveals the major concerns of Saudi Vision 2030. It mainly is about 'we' the regime's efforts to improve economy using the 'Commissive Modality' of 'will'. It reflects the Commissive Illocutionary act by the speaker. Keeping in view, the high status of the speaker – the Crown Prince – these Commissive acts have high perlocutionary value; hence, more convincing for the general public.

4.2 Key Issues from Keywords:
The key issues have been compiled on the basis of Lexical Fields. The keywords that belong to the same lexical field have been placed together to be called an issue. Such an investigation provides the opportunity to study the discourse from a broader perspective.

Table.1 *Key Issues in SV2030 vs SNC 2018*

Key Issues Saudi in vision 2030 vs SNC 2018 Total frequency= 1338					
Economy (433)	**Economy (433)**	**Education (73)**	**Health (45)**	**Society (145)**	**Culture (41)**
economy	fund	education	health	society	cultural
thriving	economic	learning	care	vibrant	entertainment
sector	GDP	skills	**Private (103)**	services	**Development (195)**
profit	retail	talents	sector	cities	establish
increase	job	training	private	citizens	development
partnership	Assets	knowledge	privatization	families	opportunities
private	investments	**Government (167)**	corporatization	**National (60)**	quality
sector	capabilities	partnership	corporations	national	build
investment	regulations	regulations	**Environment (30)**	kingdom	improve
contribute	cities	services	environment	**Geography (12)**	progress
funding	strategic	agencies	renewable	continents	resources
	competitiveness	priorities	**Islam (34)**	regionally	create
		performance	Islamic		restructuring
			umrah		developing

It is clear from table.1 that the key issue 'economy' is the largest issue in terms of member keywords and frequency. 'development', 'government' and 'society' as key issues occupy the 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions (as per members and frequency) in the table respectively. The frequency of these key issues reflects the emphasis of these issues in the Saudi Vision 2030 and the priorities of the regime. The five least stressed key issues (as per members keywords and frequency) include 'health', 'Islam', 'national', 'geography' and 'culture'. The collective frequency of these 5 key issues is much less than the frequency of the largest key issue 'economy'. Once again, the economic uplift of the country has been the major concern in this section of the study.

Table. 2 *Key Issues in SNC 2018 vs Brown Family Corpora + PWE*

Key Issues SNC 2018 vs Brown family and PWE					
Economy	**Government**	**Islam**	**Security**	**Security**	**Society**
corporation	minister	pilgrims	Militia	violence	camels
Aramco	security	Makkah	Daesh	bullets	citizens
companies	protests	Ramadan	defense	tensions	family
economy	officials	Haj	forces	fighters	camels
strategic	ministry		guards	killed	
investment	authority	**Geography**	attacks	terror	**National**
oil	statement	region	threats	stability	kingdom
	registration	global	ISIS	**Culture**	regime
Development	vision	province	terrorist	sports	Arabian
grow	military	regional	attack	heritage	Saudis
Private	forces	Arab	border	tourism	**Environment**
	officials	Arabian	Taliban	visitors	
Education	defense		activists	football	
	leader		**Health**	entertainment	
	intelligence			festival	

Table 2 shows key issues that have been identified from the keywords obtained from SNC 2018 against Brown Family corpora (Brown + Frown + Lob + Flob) and PWE (Pakistani Written English). Brown Family corpora and PWE are general purpose corpora. Brown Family corpora have 15 distinct text genres and the total words of brown family corpora are around 4 million words. PWE - Pakistani Written English, a 2.1 million words resource – has been compiled from 27 text genres. The keywords of SNC 2018 and SNC 2013 have been calculated against such general-purpose corpora because: (i) the major part of these corpora has been collected from newspapers, (ii) general purpose and balanced corpora may allow the extraction of newspaper specific features as keywords, (iii) and the research had these corpora available. All the key issues in SV2030 have been searched in the keywords of SNC 2018 and SNC 2013. Some of the key issues, identified in SV2030, were missing in the keyword lists of SNC 2018 and SNC 2013. However, the key issue 'Security' has been added to the table as it emerged the largest key issue (in terms of member keywords and frequency) in both the corpora.

Table.3 *Key Issues in SNC 2013 vs Brown Family Corpora + PWE*

Key Issues SNC 2013 vs Brown family and PWE					
Economy	**Private**	**Security**	**Security**	**Education**	**Environment**
oil		brotherhood	clashes		
corporation	**Geography**	islamists	islamist	**Government**	**Islam**
economy	region	rebels	groups	ministry	haj
	border	protests	rebel	forces	islamic
Development	interior	protesters	fighting	police	sheikh
humanitarian	regional	attack	conflict	weapons	pilgrims
		attacks	militants	official	mosques
Society	**Health**	violence	terrorist	army	mahram
civilians		revolution	uprising	defense	mosque
	Culture	fighters	militias	troops	Salafists
National	scored	supports	killing		
region	team	sectarian	activists		
kingdom	tourism				

The comparison of Key issues in SV2030 with SNC 2018 and SNC 2013 reveals that most of the key issues present in SV2030 are also available in other keyword lists. It can also be noted that more key issues of SV2030 are present in SNC 2018 than in SNC 2013. This finding may be attributed to the echo of Saudi Vision 2030 in newspapers of 2018. However, some key issues of SV2030 are absent in the key issues of SNC 2018 e.g. 'health', 'education, and 'environment' and in SNC 2013 e.g. 'private', 'health', 'education', and 'environment'. It can be easily noticed that 'economy' – the most frequent key issue- in SV2030 present in the Key issues of SNC 2018 and SNC 2013 but not emphasized in the newspapers. The most prominent feature of this section of the present study is the key issue 'security'. This key issue is the largest lexical field in both the newspaper corpora. It did not emerge as a key issue in SV2030. However, it does not mean that it is completely absent in SV2030 but the member words in this key issue are less frequent as it is evident in fig 6.
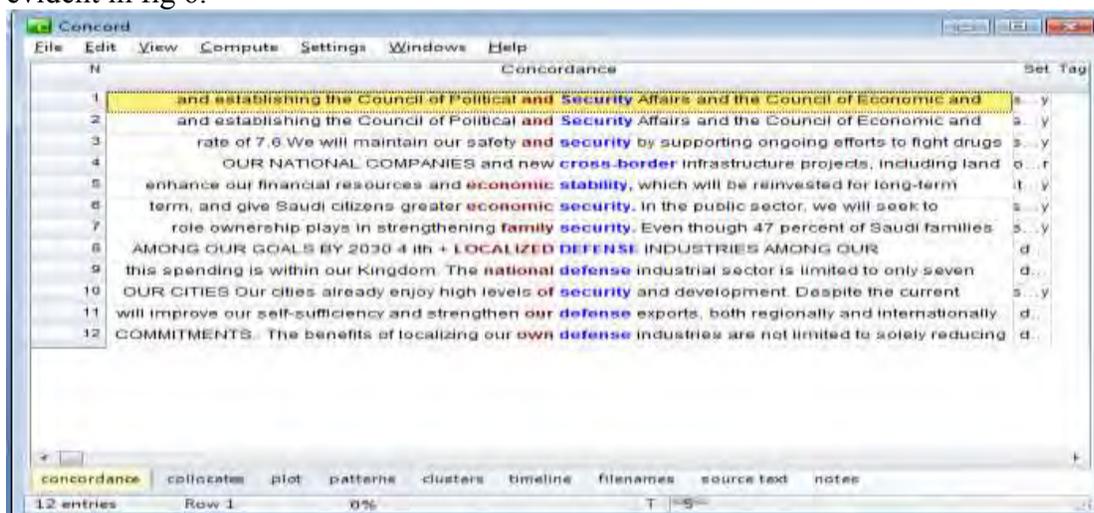

Figure.6 Frequency of words in the key issue 'security'

The figure. 6 shows the frequency of all items in the key issue 'security' as 12 in SV2030. The concordance lines show there are at least two instances (line 5 and 6) where 'security' is in the context of 'economy'. The low frequency of the items in key issue 'security' may be attributed to the mention of 'establishing the Council of Political and Security Affairs'; and the said council will be responsible for all issues related to security.

4.3 Personal Pronouns: 'we' 'our' and 'They' and Modal verb 'will'
4.3.1 Personal Pronouns 'We' and 'Our'
The use of personal pronouns plays an important role in any discourse situation. The referent of the personal pronouns is key to that leads to economical expressions and help create a discourse with the dynamics of 'US' vs 'Them etc. Group identities, role and social positions of the participants, inclusion and exclusion strategies are useful in creating a discourse. Our focus in this research is on 'we' and 'our' because of their high frequencies 338 and 357 respectively in a rather small document (Saudi Vision 2030) of 12000 words. 'we' has both 'inclusive' and 'exclusive' uses in English. when it is used inclusively, it includes the addresser and addressee; and its exclusive usage excludes addressee from the discourse. However, things are not so simple. 'we' can include the addressee directly or it can include the other members of the group (excluding the addressee), in even in their absence. It can also refer to the person(s) mentioned earlier including the speaker. We have the use of 'we' as royal 'we' referring to 'I' actually. 'we' can function in the discourse to create group solidarity, unity and belongingness.
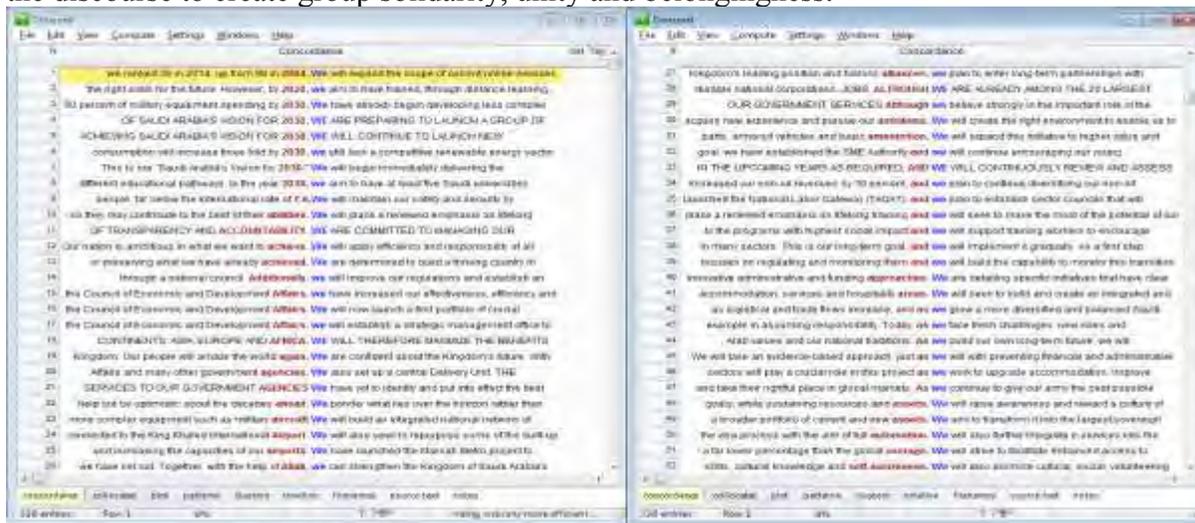

Figure.7 Concordance lines of 'we' in SV2030

As Saudi Vision 2030 is a written document, it's addressees are country-men. The majority of the usage of 'we' in SV2030 refers to the regime as shown in fig. 8. The concordance lines 1-5 show the use of 'we' as 'government'; however, in line 6 'we' refer to the country, not the government. In line 19, 'we' can refer to the regime and the country-men both. In line 26, 'we' again refers to country-men and the regime more explicitly by mentioning a clue 'together' in the sentence. This kind of usage of 'we' distinguishes the referents and shows a distance; but the common aim binds the two referents together to create solidarity. In line 28, 'we' refers to Saudi Arabia only, and comfortably it can be replaced with 'Saudi Arabia'. Choosing 'we' at such instances clearly shows the preference to create solidarity with masses so that they may be more convinced and to involve them for the implementation stage.

4.3.2   Modal Verb 'will'

The modal verb 'will' has been used 311 times in SV2030. The second most frequent modal verb is 'can' (freq. 19). The collective frequency of all other modal verbs is less than a dozen. The strongest collocate of 'will' is 'we' at L1 position with 201 occurrences. The main collocates of 'will' at R1 are 'be' (freq. 35), 'also' (freq. 38), 'continue' (freq. 21), 'seek' (freq. 13). Out of the 9 occurrences of 'shall', 6 times it came with 'we'; the use of 'shall' is only Commissive i.e. as promises. 4 occurrences of 'will' collocating with 'it at L1 position, are the only examples where 'will' has a meaning other than 'promise'. The 'it will' occurrences are predictions by nature. The passive structure of 'will be' lends an air of automaticity in the presence of Commissive 'will' as the natural outcome of those promises. The fact that 'may' (freq. 5) has 4 occurrences with 'Allah' as prayers; and no occurrence of 'might' in SV2030 shows the nature of document on possibility clan of 'will-can-may-might'. The document expresses the issues of national importance with high confidence and avoids or minimize the use of the modal verbs at the right-most side of the band.

5. Conclusion:

The present research explored the linguistic features of Saudi Vision 2030 and brought forth the findings through corpus-assisted analyses that would remain obscure from the eye of the reader otherwise. The high frequency of 'we, our, will' that was noted in the first section of the present research (in the wordlist of SV2030) remained a very useful observation throughout the study; as it turned out to be the first three keywords with the highest keyness in the second section of the study (Keyword lists); and in the last section of the study (pronouns and modal verbs), the same set of words generated the insight for analysis. The underlying semantic structures of the Saudi Vision 2030 express the promises through Commissive Modality of 'will' by the regime (occasionally, the regime and the country-men) 'we' and 'our'. The use of personal pronouns in the said Vision has been related to creating the in-group dynamics to win the confidence of the addressees. The present research identified the priorities of the regime through the comparison of key issues in SV2030 with SNC 2018 and SNC 2013. The less presence of the key issues of SV2030 in SNC 2013 and their presence in SNC 2018 has been attributed to reflection of Saudi Vision 2030 in the 2018 newspapers. The largest key issue 'security' in both the newspaper corpora but its absence in SV2030 as a key issue reveals the differences between newspaper coverage and the Saudi Vision 2030. The present research benefited from a total of just above 8 million words corpora; however, it cannot claim a very high degree of reliability as the reference corpora SNC 2018 and SNC 2013 could include limited coverage of the newspapers only. The present research added to existing knowledge and paved the way further towards the use of corpora in discourse analyses.

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